



Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

### **Welcome back to this half term**

We hope that this half term is an enjoyable and fulling one in the lead up to Christmas.

Students will be engaging in their different subjects and some students will be preparing for their internal exams coming up. We call these *Pre-Public Examinations* which are designed to help students understand what is expected of them, how to prepare for such assessments and to replicate similar conditions to final or public examinations. Year 12 have their Pre-Public Examinations in December 2022; Year 11 have their Pre-Public Examinations in January 2023 and Year 13 will have their Pre-Public Examinations in February 2023. More information regarding the dates and times will be sent out nearer the time and students can check in with their Form Tutors and Heads of Years for more details. As we do each year, departments will guide students with what they need such as revision lists, resources and exam papers.

### **Remembrance Day (Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022)**

We unite across all faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth. The 11<sup>th</sup> November, is Armistice Day. This is distinguished on this particular day each year because the ceasefire reached in 1918 to end the Great War was signed at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month.

The History Department will be leading assemblies throughout the week, and we will facilitate the marking of 2 minutes' silence at 11am outside in the playground so that we can be together. Staff and students will gather during break time on this day. In every act of remembrance, we honour the memory of the fallen and pledge to care for the living. This commemoration will be held across the country and across the world. We will take the time to reflect on the futility of war and remember the lives lost during these conflicts.

The First World War was called the 'War to end all wars'. As we know only too well, it did not do that. The total number of casualties is estimated at around 37 million people for World War 1 and twenty years later around 80 million people died during as a consequence of World War 2. There are several wars across various decades and nations that have taken lives of loved ones. Someone's son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, nephew, niece, cousin, grandchild, friend, colleague and/or neighbour have taken the decision to serve their country and their people.

We intend to mark the period of silence to remember all the people who have died in all wars and not only World War 1. World War 2, the Korean War, the Falklands War, the Gulf War, and conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Myanmar and more recently the Ukraine invasion and many more are remembered. Just as events over the pandemic and during other periods in our lives have shown us, our democracy, liberty and freedom is not just our right but ours to protect and be maintained. We remember those who have served in the Armed Forces from Britain and the Commonwealth.



**Artsmark  
Silver Award**  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



Everyone will seek to remember in their own way. Some will wear poppies, some people will sing a hymn, go to a place of worship, look at old photographs or take part in readings or even be silent in their own homes or workplaces. I hope that taking the time as a School to pause for two minutes in our normal working day will enable our students and staff the opportunity to be still and to reflect.

### **Anti-Bullying Week (Week commencing Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022)**

As part of our routine provision, we have Anti-Bullying Week coming up. At the School, we seek to ensure that all our young people are happy and safe and are able to learn successfully within a supportive environment. Whilst serious incidents of bullying are rare, they can occur and it is important for us as a community to continue to remind students about positive, safe and appropriate behaviours and relationships.


We have a diverse student and staff population of a wide range of identities, ethnicities, religions, ages, social economic circumstances, abilities, languages spoken, specific learning needs and personal and/or family circumstances. It is important to recognise, understand and celebrate our community.

During the week of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 it is *Anti Bullying Week*. This is an opportunity for us as a community to raise awareness about the importance of not accepting or tolerating behaviours that can adversely impact on young people's lives. We also believe it is essential that young people are able to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives if they are to build healthy and constructive relationships with others. There is no place for bullying.

We are encouraging all of our School **to wear odd socks on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. Students will be expected to wear their uniform as normal, but they may choose to adopt different types or colours of socks to support this particular week's message. We hope that you can remind your children to participate.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S. Huxley  
**Headteacher**