



Thursday 8th December 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I hope you are looking forward to the Christmas break. This half term we had our Year 10 Subject Evening and we thank you to all for attending. Please continue to keep in touch if you have any updates or concerns with your child's progress.

There were also a number of successful subject and reward trips across all key stages that took place this half term. The overwhelming feedback from staff was that students represented our School with real pride and pupils valued these opportunities. There are a number of Year 8 and Year 11 individual pupil interviews with staff that have taken place this half term. This is an ongoing strategy that the School has used effectively over the years to check in on pupil learning and development. Thank you to staff for their support and time with enabling students to engage with these.

Students will be preparing for their internal exams coming up. As shared with you in my last letter, 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 had their Pre-Public Examinations in this half term; Year 11 have their Pre-Public Examinations commencing 4th January 2023 and Year 13 will have their Pre-Public Examinations in February 2023.

Assemblies and Events coming up

We have continued to ensure that students are learning about different events across the globe. Thursday 1st December 2022 was World Aids Day and Saturday 3rd December 2022 raised awareness for International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

This half term we will be sharing messages for the Christmas break and we look forward to our end of term assemblies. For many there is a religious Christmas narrative and for others 25th December is observed as a cultural and traditional celebration enabling quality time with friends and family. We also have other world faith and world-wide celebrations taking place this half term including the Jewish celebration that of Hanukkah and Omisoka which is the second-most important holiday in Japan, right after New Year's Day.

When we return to School in the new term, it will be World Religion Day on Sunday 15th January 2023. There are approximately 4,200 religions around the world. World Religion Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in January every year, and is a reminder of the need for harmony and understanding between religions and faith systems. We celebrate those with faith and those with no faith.

On this day, communities of different faiths have the opportunity to get together and listen to each other, as well as celebrate the differences and commonalities that the delicate intermingling of culture and religion brings. We look forward to upcoming events and more will be shared next term.



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



Thoughtful Thursdays and Fun Fridays

It is important for students to have a voice as a stakeholder in the School. As shared previously, as part of getting to know our School, I have invited Sixth Form students to meet with me for Thoughtful Thursdays and Years 7 to 11 selected at random for Fun Fridays. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this happen. The purpose has been to create more capacity and opportunity for students to speak with me about their experiences, what they are most proud of, what they are doing well, their needs and any concerns that they may have.

Strep A or Scarlet Fever

I attach a separate letter and guidance regarding the recent news about *Strep A* and *Scarlet Fever*. Whilst these continue to be rare however cases have been above expected levels. We are not aware of any cases in School. However, following advice from Hounslow Local Authority, we continue to be vigilant and consider what we can do to support our community in assessing and managing any potential risks.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the symptoms and the actions to be taken if you suspect that you or your child might have scarlet fever.

It is not usually serious but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications (such as pneumonia) and spreading to others. The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting.

If you think you, or your child, might have scarlet fever:

- Contact your GP or NHS 111 as soon as possible
- Make sure that you or your child take(s) the full course of any antibiotics prescribed. Although you or your child will feel better soon after starting the course of antibiotics, you must complete the course to ensure that you do not carry the bacteria in your throat after you have recovered
- Stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection
- Reduce the risk of spreading any infection through frequent hand washing (sanitising).

Please review the guidance as attached for further information.

Arrangements for the End of Term

This term ends with a staggered finish from midday onwards on Friday 16th December 2022. Students will follow their normal curriculum and attend end of term assemblies before leaving.

Arrangements for the New Term

We return to School on Wednesday 4th January 2023 as normal for timetabled lessons. Tuesday 3rd January 2023 is a staff training day and no students should be in School.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope that all members of our community have a restful and enjoyable Christmas.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S. Huxley
Headteacher