



Thursday 12th January 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

A warm welcome back to the new term. Happy New Year to all students, parents, carers and families. We wanted to provide you with an update on how students are doing and some of our events coming up.

Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations

Year 11 have had two weeks' worth of internal examinations to prepare them for their final GCSE Examinations this summer. The pupils have worked hard and we are proud of how they have conducted themselves. A great amount of thought and care went into the design of each exam paper, the facilitation of the examinations, the access arrangements and the marking and moderation.

There will be a **Year 11 Results Day on Tuesday 31st January 2023** and we wish for all the pupils to really begin to understand what they need to prepare and practise before the summer term. We hope that they have been able to learn from this experience and once they receive their grades and their papers back, they should use the time in February to take necessary steps to listen to their subject's teachers advice and guidance. There will be further communication from the Mrs R. Lounds (Senior Head of Year) and the Year 11 Team in due course. Well done to everyone involved.

Pupil Interviews

Each year, leaders at The Heathland School interview pupils across all year groups. This is spread across the academic year. We have conducted Year 8 and 11 interviews with pupils which has been insightful. We are currently interviewing Year 9 pupils. It is a safe space to talk to a teacher and enables us to consider what is working well and what we can do to improve the learning experiences of our pupils.

Chinese New Year

We continue to reflect on the world around us and have a number of events coming up in this Spring Term. This year Chinese New Year falls on Sunday 22nd January 2023. It is celebrated religiously, culturally and/or spiritually across the globally. Approximately 20% of the world's population celebrate Chinese New Year. 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. Chinese New Year marks the transition between zodiac signs.

In Chinese culture, rabbits represent the moon. Some say it is because the shadows of the moon resemble a rabbit. Others say it is because of the rabbit's pure characteristics. To outsiders, the Rabbit's kindness may make them seem soft and weak. Perhaps, the Rabbit's quiet personality hides their confidence and strength. They are steadily moving towards their goal, no matter what negativity the others give them. With their good reasoning skills and attention to detail, they make great scholars. Rabbits are earnest with everything they do; they just ask that others treat them the same way.

Holocaust Memorial Day

This sits in harmony with what we continue to share with our students. **27th January 2023** marks Holocaust Memorial Day. This half term we will continue to talk to children about events across our community and the globe.



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



This was one of the most unimaginable violations in human history, resulting in the deaths of an estimated six million Jewish people. On 27th January, 1945, the most infamous concentration camp of them all, Auschwitz in South-West Poland, was liberated by Russian troops. 27th January annually is now a day that the world remembers the Holocaust, its victims and those of other attempted fell victims of or escaped acts of genocide throughout history. From the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust:

Ordinary People is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 - We are all ordinary people today who can be extraordinary in our actions. We can all make decisions to challenge prejudice, stand up to hatred, to speak out against identity-based persecution, to shop responsibly. Ordinary people are also the ones who drive Holocaust Memorial Day, who lead on community commemorations, who support and encourage everyone around them to take part in remembrance and education projects.

There are a number of events taking place to discuss Holocaust Memorial Day including some pupils being invited to attend an event hearing from families who have been deeply affected with Hounslow Local Authority and we have a guest speaker coming into School to share their story.

Children's Mental Health week

Mental Health Week will take place from 6th February to 12th February 2023 and this year's theme is '**Let's Connect**'. As a School, we will be encouraging students and adults to look at how we can make meaningful connections. When we have healthy connections to family, friends and others, this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. Assemblies during half term will be used to encourage students to connect with others in healthy, rewarding, and meaningful ways. There will also be a range of other activities that students and staff can participate in to support their mental health. These will be made available by Mrs N. Benedict (Assistant Headteacher, Pupil and Parental Engagement & Inclusion).

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Presentation Evening

This year we would like to re-introduce our Annual Presentation Evening for all students who have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This will be held on **Tuesday 14th March 2023** at 7pm, where we will celebrate their achievements. All students who have participated in the Award over the last few years will be invited, as well as their parents or carers. More information will be sent to families via email, so please keep the date free and respond to the link in the email. Thank you to all the staff involved in supporting the students with Duke of Edinburgh.

One World (Evening Event)

The Sixth Form Student Leadership presented their vision and idea for a whole school event which will now take place in the Spring Term. We have an event called **One World** coming up that will take place on **Wednesday 15th March 2023** in the evening. This evening event will include a diverse range of music, verse, dance and performance. We aim to pay tribute to the numerous and diverse minds and beliefs held by all communities and cultures around the world. The Heathland School is proud that we live and work in a multicultural community and embracing the values of various cultures only strengthens our understanding and appreciation of the world and each other. Further details about the timings and ticket prices will be sent out nearer the time. We warmly welcome your attendance and support for this event. **Please save the date!**

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S. Huxley
Headteacher