



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I begin this newsletter with sad news. Mr Samuel, former Headmaster of The Heathland School, passed away on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November after a period of illness.

Mr Samuel was the Headmaster when the school opened and served the local community in this role for 23 years from 1973 until 1996. He was also a local councillor in Richmond for nearly 40 years.

I know that many parents and grandparents in the community will remember Mr Samuel with fondness and gratitude.

I will now move onto other matters.

I would like to thank you for your patience when our phone system was not working. My colleagues in the School Office did an amazing job of keeping information flowing between parents and the school and I am extremely grateful to them in such difficult circumstances.

As the weather gets colder can I please remind all parents of our uniform rules. A black or dark blue coat, a black hat and/or gloves and/or scarf may be worn OUTSIDE but not anywhere inside the building. Caps and hoodies are not allowed.

## **1. Remembrance Ceremony Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Due to the very wet weather last week, our Remembrance Ceremony this year took place online with all of our school community listening to readings and poems before hearing the bugle playing the Last Post. A two-minute silence was then observed across the whole school which enabled us all to reflect on the horrors of war and the awful loss of life involved in all conflicts. Students across the school behave impeccably as you would expect.

## **2. Anti-Bullying Week - week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Our assemblies this week and next week will focus on Anti-Bullying Week. 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 are also holding our annual Diwali assemblies this week and our Head of Religious Education, Ms Kaur, and a group of Year 8 pupils have led a series of informative and inspiring assemblies about this important festival and its meaning.



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



### 3. Forthcoming Pre-Public Examinations

Year 11: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Year 12: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Year 13: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

*Please note: Year 12 and 13 students will have study leave when they are not sitting exams.*

### 4. Mathilda

Our pupils have been rehearsing with great enthusiasm under the guidance of our Drama and Music teachers to prepare for this year's school production of Mathilda – The Musical. Tickets are on sale for the two shows on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm.

### 5. Staff Training and Occasional Day

Please note the school will be closed to all pupils on these dates:

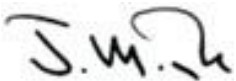
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

### 6. Home Start

This local charity provides a vital lifeline for local families with children under five. At the heart of our local charity are the parent volunteers who give their time to help other parents who are struggling to cope. They support them to manage their own issues as well as helping their pre-school children to be ready for nursery and school. Attached to this letter is a flyer which tells you about the free volunteer training course available if you might be interested in getting involved.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



**Headteacher**