



Thursday 24th October 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

It has been a very busy half-term but I am delighted that pupils have settled back so well after the summer, and it is lovely to visit such calm, purposeful lessons.

Senior Prize Giving was a special occasion and we have already had a wide range of trips taking place. The Art Exhibition last week provided an excellent opportunity to showcase our students' outstanding work and it was good to see younger pupils admiring the displays and being inspired by what they saw.

Our two Open Evenings for Year 6 pupils were very well attended, and our students were superb ambassadors for the School, either as prefects, tour guides or as helpers in department areas. If your child was involved in any way, please congratulate them as the conduct of all our students was exemplary.

As you will know if you have visited the school in the past year, we have had significant building work taking place. At long last, the scaffolding is coming down following extensive works to the roof of the main building. New fire doors are being fitted throughout the school and in the coming weeks work will take place to improve the fencing and security at the front of the school site.

In order to remedy a long-standing concern, the reception area will be moving to a new location closer to the car park and pedestrian entrance. This move will not alter the way in which you can contact the school by email or telephone, but there will be some changes when you visit the school for an appointment. I will update you once the work is complete.

I would like to address some other issues.

1. PUNCTUALITY

The revisions to our systems for managing any incidents of poor behaviour or lateness have been working successfully. As you know, a key principle is that pupils will be issued a detention on the day that the incident or lateness takes place. This is called a Centralised Behaviour System (CBS) detention.

There have been clear improvements regarding the number of pupils arriving late to lessons which causes disruption to everyone's learning, but there are still too many, and students are also arriving late to school in the morning.

After half-term, if a student is late to school in the morning this will now count as one of the 3 lates which will result in them being placed in the Internal Exclusion Room for persistent poor punctuality. A meeting will then be arranged with parents/carers before the student is able to return to normal lessons.



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



2. ASSEMBLIES AFTER HALF-TERM

The week after half-term, the History Department will be leading assemblies about Remembrance. We remember those who have lost their lives in all conflicts, from the beginning of the First World War right up to the present day. We will be holding a short act of Remembrance across the school on Monday 11th November.

Our assemblies in the following week will be focussed 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, both in-person and online.

3. SENECA PREMIUM LEARNING

Seneca is an online learning platform that provides engaging and interactive resources across a wide range of subjects, we have purchased Seneca Premium until May 2024 in the first instance. It's particularly useful for revision, as it covers GCSE and A level content in an accessible way.

Students can test their understanding through quizzes, interactive notes, and short exercises. This is a fantastic tool that can help your child reinforce what they learn in class and prepare for examinations. They can use it to review topics, identify areas for improvement, and track their progress. **By way of example, since the introduction of Seneca Premium our Year 10 students have completed nearly 400 hours of study time, with an average score of over 80%, this is a superb achievement.**

If your son or daughter is in Years 10 – 13, please can you encourage your child to use Seneca Premium each week as a way of consolidating their learning.

4. FORTHCOMING PRE-PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

- Year 11: Tuesday 19 November 2024 to Friday 29 November 2024
- Year 12: Tuesday 10 December 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024
- Year 13: Monday 3 February 2025 to Friday 14 February 2025

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

5. GALA CONCERT

Our pupils have been rehearsing with great enthusiasm under the guidance of our Performing Arts teachers to prepare for this year's Gala Concert which will take place on Thursday 12th December starting at 6.00pm. Tickets are already on sale via ParentPay.

6. Dates and Holidays 2024/2025

AUTUMN TERM 2024

Monday 2 September - Friday 20 December 2024

Half Term: Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November 2024

INSET Days Friday 22nd and Monday 25th November

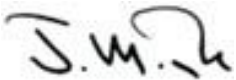
Christmas Holiday: Monday 23 December - Friday 3 January 2025

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

**Friday 22nd November 2024 and
Monday 25th November 2024**

May I wish you all a restful half-term break. For those families in our community who will be celebrating Diwali, may I wish you a time of joy and happiness.

Yours faithfully,



J.M Rose
Headteacher