



26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As the end of another very different term approaches us I hope we are now back on the road to normality and routine.

### Quality Assurance

These past weeks, myself and the senior and middle leadership team have been visiting each other's lessons to identify areas of best practice and share them with each other as well as looking at areas for further development. What I have been very pleased to see is that the MECE style, that I have been trying to foster since I began, has taken hold; clear objectives, excellent questioning involving all members of the class, modelling of work, a quieter classroom and higher expectations for classwork, presentation and homework. A barometer of this change was an interview candidate we had this week, from another local school; they were incredibly impressed by the students, our expectations of the students and the calm orderly operation of the school, which was in contrast to what she'd heard of the school.

As in all schools, there are things we want to improve, but given that the students have been in school for less than 30 weeks since I began as head, and much of that has been overshadowed by the pandemic, the extent of the progress is tangible for everyone.

### Parent Forum

Next Tuesday we have our termly Parent Forum. We will be discussing the impact of the pandemic on our learning community and our plans for moving forwards. We very much would like to hear the parental voice on the impact of the lockdowns and remote learning, but also to share and gather your perspective on our plans for moving forwards. Please register your interest [here](#).

### Maths homework

Thank you to all parents who have ensured that maths homework has been done in the last week. As one parent said in a call I had, "it's the cultural shift to higher expectations for homework that some of the students are finding tricky". I do agree with this completely but hopefully as habits embed and these expectations become the norm, students will see the benefits of regular and rigorous practice in this subject. The fact that the number of students with a sanction for no maths homework has dropped from 101 to 21 in a week shows that almost all students and parents have understood these expectations and I thank you for that.

### Year 11

Our Year 11s are moving to a really exciting and critical time in their educational careers. Parents and carers have had a detailed letter from Miss Bliss about the dates of each 'event' between now and the end of the year. The key message is that there is so much still to play for, and students should be working all out across Easter in preparation for their Core PPEs just after the break and then similarly for their wider subjects for the summer assessment window. However, it is great to see how well they have embraced this challenge and so many of them are working well, focusing hard and really giving it their all.



In a slightly updated version please click on the Fab, Drab and Staff member of the Week icons below.

My staff member of the week this week goes to Mrs Ashley for her strong, determined yet compassionate leadership of Year 11. She has showed great resolve in ensuring that all of the students understand our expectations and all are capable of succeeding.

Have a great weekend.

Take care and stay safe

Andy Hartley  
Headteacher

