



24 May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Year 11 Leavers Day**

Please excuse the Monday delivery of my weekly newsletter. Friday saw the farewells to our Year 11 students and this event was very hands on both in terms of preparations and the execution of the day itself. We had such a lovely day with the students, with photos taken, an ice cream van, a lovely buffet, inter-form races like the sack race and three-legged race and a final goodbye assembly. The assembly had lots of pictures and videos from Year 7 and it is quite remarkable just how much the students have grown and developed in those 5 years. I think the students themselves were taken aback by the contrasts between themselves in 2016 and today. These students have been through so much, both in the recent journey of the school and the Covid lockdowns and home learning. However, their resilience and positivity shone through and it was lovely to observe how much the staff enjoyed spending time with them on Friday.

With regard to Year 11, our staff are now busy marking and moderating the recent assessments and readying their overall judgement of the students for the exam boards just after the May half-term.

### **Year 6 Transition**

As we wish one year group a goodbye our transition work for the new Year 7s is really quickening pace. We have had several groups of parents on site in the last week for the first time since early last March taking advantage of the relaxation of the Covid restrictions. It has been a pleasure to walk around the school with these parents and show them our lovely school. Below are some of the feedback comments made these parents after their visit

*Very calm, organised, friendly, engaging and clean. Very impressed and looking forward to my son starting!*

*I found tidy and well-kept school buildings, with enough day light and lovely fields. I was impressed with the outside rest areas as well. The students that did guide us were of excellent quality, were able to express their experience about the school curriculum and their academic aspirations. Very impressed with the welcoming manner of the staff. Our girl had a tremendous experience and is extremely excited to join in September. Well done!!*

*Awesome! Everything was calm. Kids looked ready to learn in the classroom. I saw the school years ago and it looks so much cleaner. Loved all of the kids work displays all around the school. Very impressed.*

*My daughter is feeling more confident about attending, which for me was the primary goal of yesterday's session. While I can't recall the names of our guides, they were brilliant representatives of your school, and to thank them for their time.*

We've also had our staff out at local primary schools, holding workshops and liaising with staff and students. Mrs Hardman, our Head of Science, was invited to judge end of unit work on Evolution at Kidmore End Primary on Friday morning. She was really impressed with their hard work and understanding that has developed over the last few months. Mr Watterson is about to visit The Hill primary school and work on some clay modelling with their students. Hopefully by fostering these positive relationships and giving staff and pupils at our feeder schools an opportunity to experience our staff and students this will really help the school in terms of future growth.

### Homework Club

Please be reminded of our Homework Club which is open after school from Tuesday to Thursday in the library from 3.10- 4.10pm. This space provides students who may find it difficult to study at home the opportunity to get on with their work in a quiet space with staff support. Homework is a great opportunity to consolidate understanding from the lessons and will really help with future academic progress.

### Staff member and Student of the Week

Our staff member of the week this week goes to **Mrs Ashley** for her organisation and energy of the Year 11 leaving 'do'. It was clear just how much the students care for her and she for them. Being a pastoral leader can be a tremendously sapping role but days like that make it all worthwhile when you can see the students safely on their way to the next stage in their lives.

Our student of the week goes to **Hibbah A**, who as one of the head students, gave a lovely address to her peers in the final assembly for Year 11. We are in the middle of the process of appointing new head students at present and it has been great to see such a competitive field this year. I hope they can emulate Hibbah this time next year.

Please use the links below to leave any fab or drab feedback or nominate a staff member of the week.

Take care and stay safe.



Andy Hartley  
Headteacher

