



17 September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope everyone is well and managing to avoid infection!

We have had a very positive time at school this week with several good indicators of success and growth.

UNLOC

On Tuesday we welcomed UNLOC to deliver a workshop to our Year 11 students on enterprise skills. The students looked at branding and marketing, what entrepreneurship means, public speaking skills, teamwork and how to pitch an idea. The students worked with great engagement across the five hours and as a result they received some wonderful feedback from the company owner who was delighted with just how focused the students were. Team Cybersports came away with chocolates for their innovative idea and the quality of their pitch but everyone within the year benefitted from such a positive day.



The winning team!!

Tours

We have welcomed 70 + guests on two days this week. Both sets of Year 6 parents are part of our recruitment drive for next year's Year 7 intake. The tours, on Wednesday and Thursday, were incredibly positive and I was delighted that parents saw the school in action with engaged students being led by professional and passionate teachers. It is also always lovely to show parents our students as they move between lessons calmly and smoothly and furthermore the feedback on our student guides was simply outstanding - they represent the school so well. We have two more tours next week and then our open evening on Tuesday 28 September and two more tours in the following week.

CESA

I met with Suzanne Lovegrove from CESA this week and we looked at some fundraising ideas for this term. Watch this space but these include a fun quiz night in November. The support of parents in raising funds for the school is so important and will help us to put in equipment and resources to support the further regeneration of the school.

Homework/ Homework Club/ Detentions

As the school year embeds further homework will become more of a regular thing. Please make sure all students have log ins for Google Classroom and Show My Homework. As a parent please also make sure you have this app on your phone as it allows you to support your son/daughter with the management of their homework. We will be launching our after-school homework club very soon to support those students who want to work in a supported study space and for those students struggling to complete homework. Most of our homework will be based on the consolidation of knowledge to support in class learning therefore missing out on these key tasks will really disadvantage the students concerned - we are determined

to not let this happen! We will also be using a weekly detention system in each faculty area, like the system that Maths currently use. There will be a set day for a lunch detention in each subject area for any students not completing homework, so they have a chance to get their work done. This system will launch from a week on Monday.

COVID and vaccinations

We do have several students absent with COVID at the moment however given the local infection rate numbers this is always likely to happen. Please can I make a plea that students are tested at home twice a week and if PCR tests are taken, where possible close contacts in school are documented so that Test and Trace can contact people to take a PCR test. This will allow us to keep absences to a minimum (including staff!!).

At present I have been given no indication when any vaccine delivery is likely to occur in school, nor have I had any documentation on the matter of vaccines for 12–15-year-olds to disseminate. As soon as I have this information, I will let you have it.

Staff member of the week

My staff members of the week go to **Mrs Danbury** in the Hive and **Mrs Worth** at Student Services for their brilliant work in holding the fort through some COVID staffing issues. Also, to **Ms Biddiss** and **Miss Bliss** who have continued to work despite feeling awful for much of the week. **Mr Hunter** and **Mrs Chopra** also deserve recognition - Mr Hunter for his great working organising the school tours and Mrs Chopra for her slick organisation of the Year 11 UNLOC day.

Please click on the link below to nominate any staff who you think have gone over and above in the last 5 days - we always make sure we share this feedback!

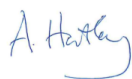
Student member of the week

My students of the week this week are **Charlie** Year 7 for his attendance of so many clubs across the week. In addition, **Amy** for superb attitude towards her work and her in her role as Student Wellbeing ambassador, **Rhia** for her support of fellow students and **Corey** for his brilliant start to KS4.

Please click on **the fab and drab** links alongside the **staff member of the week** to give us any feedback you'd like to pass on.

Have a great weekend

Best wishes



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

