



01 April 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are well and enjoying the brisk spring weather. It was very exciting yesterday as we dodged the snow showers throughout the day. Despite all this, the Eco Club still got out to start their digging of our vegetable beds ready for seed planting in the next few weeks.

Staying Safe Presentations

This week, we have had visitors working with the students on personal safety and awareness. On Wednesday, our Year 9 and 10 students had a brilliant assembly from the Violence Reduction Unit of the police. The assembly focused upon some of the real-life challenges that the students may face as they grow up. The focus was on the issue of County Lines gangs and how skilfully they prey on younger children, often without them being aware until it is too late. The delivery was lively and engaging and the students listened impeccably.

On Friday, Year 7, 8 and 9 have had a presentation and workshops from a company called Advanced Tactical Resources and this has been focused on how to spot and stay clear of situations and individuals posing a risk to young people. This has been paid for by CESA in the wake of the Ollie Stephens murder last January.

Year 11s and Easter School

Our Year 11's had a great assembly this morning getting them ready for their exams in the next few weeks. They have only 19 school days left from Monday, and we want to make sure they really smash it. Linked to this, I was proud to talk about our Easter School for our students. This will run from the second week of the Easter holidays for Year 11 students and will have two 90-minute revision sessions each day. With the exams starting so late we thought this was an excellent opportunity to really push our students and I am delighted about the great levels of buy-in from our staff and enthusiasm towards this from our students.

Parent Forum, Feedback and Uniform

On Wednesday evening we held a very positive Parent Forum. In this we discussed the transition to Bromcom, uniform and our transition arrangements. I am grateful to the parents that attended and the positive affirmation of our work along with some great ideas and tweaks that we could look at. Following this meeting, and a governor meeting on Thursday, I am pleased to announce that tailored school shorts will become part of our uniform list after Easter. I will write to you about this matter fully next week so you can understand my thinking and the protocols and types of shorts that can be worn.

In terms of uniform, can I remind you that any changes such as the need for ties or blazers to be brought in during hot weather will be communicated **by the school**. When we contacted the parents of one boy who had decided not to wear his blazer in the earlier part of this week, we were told that the boy had informed his parents that "the school had said we do not need to wear blazers anymore because 'it's hot'". We will let you know when this is the case!

Ramadan

With Ramadan starting this weekend, I would like to wish our MECE Muslim families 'Ramadan Kareem'. We have turned a space in school into a non-denominational reflection and prayer room and I know some of our fasting students will be using this room to pray in over the next month. My thanks to Ms Hussain for starting this up.

Stars of the Week

My staff star of the week is **Ms Biddiss** for her care and relentless support of Year 8 and 9 students. She works tirelessly meeting parents, spending quality time with the students and always ensures that everyone gets the best possible experience and support.

Lastly, if you would like to leave us any feedback (and we had two lovely e-mails from parents last weekend) please click on the link below.

Take care and have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

