



06 May 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope everyone is well and enjoyed the three-day weekend. Certainly, Thursday evening seems to have arrived far more quickly than normal!

Year 10 Exams

It has been another busy week with Year 10 revision classes in anticipation of their GCSEs. Year 10 practice examinations can be a bit of a wake up call and I know, having spoken to the English team after tonight's session, there are a number of students who may have underestimated the task ahead of them. I would ask that Year 10 parents do their utmost to make sure the weekend is spent productively in anticipation of next week's exams.

Year 11 Exams

Year 11 continue to impress with their positive attitude as their exams begin a week on Monday (16 May). Once again, they should be working relentlessly in their spare time to prepare for these exams which will dictate many things over the next few years of their lives.

As Benjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Attendance

In the next few weeks, we will be doing a big push on attendance. Attendance to school is all important and when lessons are missed it can severely affect academic chances as students develop gaps in their learning and understanding. If absence rates are increasing for your child, please try and reverse this and support your child in attending school.

Homework

Can I also ask that, as parents, you support your child with homework? It is so important, and the time spent on this embeds the knowledge the students need to be more effective. Please make sure you are checking what has been set on Show My Homework and ensure your child completes the homework set. The time spent on this will certainly benefit the students in the longer term.

Eco Club

I had the pleasure of spending time with our Eco Club students this lunchtime planting onions, potatoes, and other vegetables in our allotment. It is great to see both the enthusiasm and knowledge of these students. This tied in nicely with our staff training session this evening. Mr Hunter led a session on character and the virtues we wish to develop around our values of Opportunity, Diversity and Success. It was very pleasing to see the engagement staff have with this project and it will shortly be taken both to School Council and to the tutor groups to gather their views before the big launch in September.

Ukrainian Students

I have had the pleasure of meeting three Ukrainian families this week. All have arrived very recently on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and have been a pleasure to meet. It is very apparent that they are desperate to begin their academic journey with immediate effect and we cannot wait for them to start. What stood out for me when I was touring the school with today's family was the warmth of greeting, they received from our students. Our Year 8

students were genuinely delighted to both meet and greet this student and welcome them into our community which was most touching indeed and reflects the values of diversity and respect that we so strongly encourage.

Bingo!

Our CESA Bingo event takes place this evening and thank you to everyone who has bought tickets. For those of you not in attendance, you will have missed a fantastic evening, not least because our wonderful Mrs Lovegrove will be MC-ing the evening and calling most of the games along with myself subbing in as a guest caller for one card. Apologies in advance for any offence caused!!

Challenge Partners

Next week, I will write to you about the review of the school we are having by an organisation called Challenge Partners where heads from other schools visit and assess our provision. Challenge Partners reviews are a little less far reaching than an OFSTED inspection and used for internal improvement purposes nevertheless we are looking forward to having the quality of education and leadership of the school assessed by other professionals.

Stars!

My students 'Star of the Week' go to Isaias C and Gabriella V for being great ambassadors of the school and leading excellent school tours.

My staff stars of the week are Mr Hunter, Miss Bliss, Ms Clarke, and Mrs Hills (and all the teachers and TAs) for delivering some brilliant training on Thursday evening as we worked on our direction for next year.

Please click on the links below to leave any feedback you may wish to.

Take care and have a great weekend

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

