



30 June 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are all well. Please excuse my lack of a newsletter in the last two weeks. This was the aftermath of the publication of the Ofsted report last week and the extreme heat the week before which kept me very busy and prevented me from putting pen to paper.



### Ofsted

With the publication of the report last week and my visits to a number of primary schools recently it is clear that the reputation of the school is changing rapidly. We notified local Year 5 parents of upcoming school tours and have had to close them for further signees as we had 130 families sign up within a week. This bodes exceedingly well for the future of the school as students and parents vie for places with us over the coming years. Having spoken to the three local estate agents in Sonning Common they are also delighted with the change in our Ofsted grading!

### What Next?

As we reach this point in the academic year, we now begin to look at next year. Over the last fortnight my leadership team and I have spent around 8 hours reviewing the year and planning for this year. This week the Heads of Year and the Heads of Department met on different days to look at their own improvement plans for the next 12 months. We will be following this up with a whole staff session on Friday (**our INSET day, do not forget!!**) The Ofsted report is a great benchmark, but we are determined to keep our improvement curve accelerating rapidly.

### Parent Forum

Please be reminded about our Parent Forum on Wednesday 6 July when we will also be discussing our next steps. Invites for this have been sent out so please look at your e-mails and register through the link if you would like to be a part of this event.

### Prom

We had a wonderful prom on Wednesday evening this week for our Year 11 leavers. Almost all of them attended the function at Badgemore Golf Club, Henley. They looked amazing and

I was delighted to hear such positive feedback from the venue staff who described the students as courteous, polite and incredibly smartly turned out.

### Head Students

It was also wonderful this week to announce our new Head Students for 2022/2023 and they are Millie M and Corey D. Both students are hardworking, polite, well-motivated young people who are a credit to their families and the school. They wrote letters of application, were interviewed and gave speeches to their peers as part of their application process. I cannot wait to start working with them and will be meeting them next week to look at their plans and ideas.

### Phones

Please can I ask you to speak to your sons and daughters about phones in school. Just recently we have noticed an uptick in students using phones in school. We do not allow phones to be used for three reasons. Firstly, there are safeguarding concerns regarding the filming and messaging of other students. Secondly, they are a distraction to educational progress in terms of concentration. Lastly, I find schools where phones are permitted at break and lunch very sad places where students do not speak to each other but just spend ages scrolling through their phones rather than conversing, playing, and exercising and just generally socialising. The rule is that phones are not permitted to be used by students in school. If a student is seen using their phone, they will have it confiscated. The student will receive the phone back at the end of the day. If the phone is confiscated three times, parents will be informed and will have to come and collect the phone in person.

### Parking

Can I ask that any parents coming to pick up their children from school at the end of the day please respect the local communities they are parking in. I have had two separate complaints this week from local residents with accompanying photos of cars blocking roads as they wait for the end of school pick up. Thank you for your support in this matter.

### Stars of the week

My staff star of the week is **Miss Jackson** who went over and above in setting up the prom despite not being a Year 11 tutor.

My student stars of the week are **Millie and Corey**, our new Head Students. I cannot wait to meet them next week to hear their views.

Please do not forget to leave any feedback you may have by clicking on the boxes below.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley  
Headteacher

