



7 October 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope everyone has had a positive and profitable week.

Fly me to the moon...

We have had another busy week with one of the highlights being our astronomy evening. Ms Hardman, our Head of Science, has worked incredibly hard to organise this event in conjunction with the kind people from Reading Astronomy Club. Over sixty people attended a wonderful evening. There were lectures about meteors, handling space rocks kindly lent by the US embassy and Rutherford Appleton laboratories and finally going out on to the field to view the wonders of the universe. Highlights included a wonderful view of Saturn and its rings along with Jupiter, although the close views of the moon through a telescope also produced gasps of awe and wonder.

Year 11 Revision block

Our Year 11s began their preparations for the PPEs (mock examinations) in earnest this week with a block of after school revision sessions in all their subjects. These sessions will be aimed at improving knowledge and sharpening technique for these all-important examinations. Whilst attendance has been strong there have been one or two students who have not attended and this is so frustrating. Examination results can open so many doors and present so many choices and it seems nothing but foolhardy to not attend these excellent extra sessions. Can I implore the parents of those few students who have not attended to speak to their sons/daughters this weekend.

Homework prizewinners

During September we had a big focus on homework and encouraging students to adopt good study habits. Each time students completed a piece of homework staff were asked to log it onto our centralised database so they also received a House Point. In total over 1200 House Points were credited to students from across KS3 alone in this time – quite an achievement! Each time a student received a House Point for homework their name was added into a draw to win a prize. This week we picked a winner from each year and I would like to congratulate Annie (Y7), Erin (Y8) Luke (Y9) Floyd (Y10) and Amber (Y11). They were able to pick a book of their choice from our Book Fair as their prize.

Target Setting

Our Year 8 to 11 students have done an exercise this week looking at their targets. These targets are set based upon performance at the end of Key Stage 2. By completing the exercise it allows students to focus on their goals and outcomes but also to consider if they can exceed what the computer has generated. Each student has a sheet with their targets on them, therefore I would ask that parents do discuss what these targets are with their children and most importantly how they can be achieved.

CESA

Our annual CESA AGM took place on Monday and it was heartening to see a good number of new faces ready to help out. In these cash straitened times having a fund-raising group supporting events and the school in general. I am indebted to Suzanne Lovegrove, our

chairperson and her team for all that they do. From bacon roll making, tea and coffee serving, quiz nights, bingo nights, uniform sales and raffle draws. It is all so important and valued and I know they would love you to be involved even if it is only to attend one of their events. The first event for this year is the annual CESA quiz on Friday, 14 October at 7pm. There will be prizes and food and fun. Follow the link [here](#) to get your tickets and for more details.

Governor vacancy

Please be reminded about our current governor vacancy. A link to the letter from our clerk, Helen White, is [here](#).

The deadline is 3pm on Tuesday 11 October 2022.

Stars of the Week

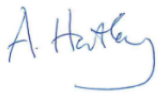
This week my staff star of the week goes to **Ms Hardman** for her amazing organisation of the astronomy evening. This event gave our community the opportunity to access and experience learning that both supports and goes well beyond the curriculum.

My student stars of the week go to **Juan** in Year 11 and **Charlotte** in Year 10 for the highest number of Housepoints this week.

As ever, please leave any feedback you may using the links below.

Take care and have a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley

