



13 January 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

January is never an easy month in school with the dark mornings and cold rainy weather, so it is important we focus where possible on the positives and the great things that are always going on at the school.

To name but a few:

- Mrs Chopra returned for her first 'Keeping in Touch' day after her maternity leave, and it was wonderful to see how warmly she was greeted by the students.
- Mrs Brown, our Music teacher, held her first singing club of the term on Monday lunchtime and had a bumper turn out of marvellous students.
- Our amazing Amnesty International Club wrote 48 letters of support for prisoners and individuals at risk around the globe. It is so heartening to see so many students engaged in their society trying to make the world a better place.
- There were two tours around the school on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon and both sets of visitors were so impressed with the appearance, focus and commitment of the students.
- Attendance has been well above 90% since we returned from Christmas, thank you for your support in this matter.
- Our Year 8 and 9 girls' football team drew 1-1 with Wallingford School on Tuesday despite having a team that included some Year 7 girls. Wallingford is a very large school, so to gain this result deserves some big kudos!

National Tutoring Programme

The school receives a pot of money from the government to support students who have fallen behind during the lockdown and we began our work on this in earnest this week with our tutor, Mr Hodges. He saw over 20 students in small groups and 1:1 support in 30-minute sessions across Friday. It is also our intention to use this money to run an Easter School for Year 11 as we did last year to support their revision push towards their GCSE exams. It is likely we will also use this pot to support some Science work later in the year.

Drop Everything and Read

Please be reminded that our next 'reading for pleasure' session takes place on Tuesday morning so please can all Key Stage Three parents ensure that students have their reading books with them to support this initiative.

Ruth Perry

It was with huge sadness that we heard about the death of the headteacher of Caversham Primary School, Ruth Perry, earlier this week. When I was new in post, I visited Ruth at her school and she was incredibly supportive regarding my role and gave her time freely to discuss the challenges of being a headteacher. Walking around that school, it was clear that her stamp ran right through each corridor and classroom and that thousands of Caversham children have benefitted from her strong leadership since she became head in 2010.

I am sure you will join me in passing our condolences to Ruth's family and the members of the Caversham Primary School family.

Stars

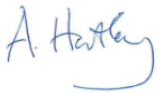
My student star this week is **Eleanor** in Year 7 for playing up two years as goalkeeper for the girls' team.

My staff star this week is **Miss Shepherd** for her wonderful assemblies celebrating the life and legacy of Martin Luther King.

Please click on the links below if you'd like to leave any feedback (especially if you'd like to brighten up a hard-working teacher's January!)

Have a lovely weekend

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley

