



28 April 2023

Dear Parents/Guardian

I hope everyone has had a good week and is looking forward to the bank holiday weekend.

NEU Strikes

This week has been a little odd with another of the planned strike days. I was pleased that we could open for our Year 11s and for them to follow a programme of normal lessons on Thursday along with Year 10 being in and doing a carousel of maths, English and science, followed by a revision session for some students ahead of their PPEs which begin next Friday.

Year 11 now only have nine school days before their GCSE examinations kick off in earnest, so it was imperative that they didn't lose any further time away from the classroom. I apologise for the inconvenience of closing for the majority of Year 7, 8 and 9 students, however as I mentioned last week, one hopes the government can reconsider their offer before further industrial action is announced for late June and July.

Stakeholder Surveys

The results of the survey that parents, staff and students took in March have been in for a few weeks and my leadership team and I have been using this to formulate our plans for next year. Amongst a range of points from the parent survey I can tell you that reports will be amended for next year (and this is something we have been nudging the Trust towards for almost two years!). In addition, we have been working with staff on signposting marking and improvement work, recognising homework and improving homework provision. There are some other points, and these will be mentioned in newsletters later this term.

Ironically, one question was asking if parents felt the school acknowledged and acted upon feedback from parents. I can assure you we do look hard at the survey as well as the feedback we receive from you each week through the links below.

Behaviour Statistics

Regular readers of this newsletter and attendees of our parent forums will know I am always keen to look at behaviour. This week I presented to staff a comparison of the first week of last term with the first week of this term. I am pleased to report that the number of behaviours logged in the classroom fell from 120 incidents across the week to 71 (Do remember there are 400 students, doing 5 lessons a day with 5 days in the week making 10,000 possible chances for behaviours logged). Similarly, Mr Baker's 'On Call' log also showed a similarly proportionate fall. Whilst we are not complacent about behaviour it is pleasing to see an improving picture.

Assembly

This week's assembly has been completed by Ms Hardman and her Amnesty International group and their focus has been to draw the student's attention to the fact that it is Earth Week and that climate change has a huge impact on the human experience. In addition, Ms Hardman and the team spoke about the small changes we can all make to reduce our impact on the environment.

I am very grateful to Ms Hardman for this assembly, both because of the importance of the message and the fact that she is still taking on challenges even though she is heavily pregnant!

Quality Assurance Work

This week my leadership team and I have been dropping into lessons across the week as part of our regular cycle of quality assurance work. It has been a pleasure to see so many students working hard and so many teachers using high quality pedagogy to ensure our students make excellent progress.

Stars of the Week

This week my staff star of the week goes to **Mrs Howes**, our new maths teacher who has been raking in the parental approval e-mails. It is such a joy to walk into her room and see her positivity for the students and passion for mathematics.

My student star of the week goes to **Oilly** in Year 8 who gained 42 house-points in the first week of this term. It is a testament to an excellent week's application and effort.

Please leave any feedback you have using the links below.

Have a lovely long weekend!

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

