

14th July 2023



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ASSOCIATE HEADTEACHER: DR T CLOSE

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As we approach the end of term I would like to thank you for your ongoing support over the year. It is this vital partnership that enables our students to achieve the highest levels of attainment. We have had a busy term. Just a short snapshot includes the Art Exhibition, Over the Rainbow Production, Schools Shakespeare Festival, Houses of Parliament visit, Music Concert, Year 11 and Sixth Form Prom and the Outward bound residential to name just a few activities.

I was particularly pleased that all of this work both inside and outside the classroom was recognised by Ofsted in our **GOOD** judgement. I continue to be impressed at how well our students conduct themselves. This was most noticeable in their preparation and conduct in the recent GCSE/ A-Levels, mock examinations and GL assessments across the various year groups.

End of Term Arrangements

We have our annual Sports Day event planned for Wednesday 19th July for Year 7, 8, and 9. Students are required to arrive at normal time in correct PE kit and will finish at the normal time of 3.15pm. Please note that we are monitoring the weather forecast closely and we may have to amend if the weather is unsuitable. Please remember to send plenty of drinks and sun cream.

On Thursday 20th July, we have a planned careers day (Futures) for Key Stage 3 students.

On Friday 21st July we focus the day on world culture whereby students will immerse themselves in world culture activities. This will be a non-uniform day for students. Students will be expected to pay £1.00 for the privilege of wearing their own clothes towards a donation to a local food bank.

We will write to you separately with further details about the 3 special days.

As you will already be aware, term ends for students on **Friday 21st July with students finishing at 3.15pm.**

GCSE and A Level Result Days

We will be open for students to collect their A Level results on **Thursday 17th August** from 10am until midday for Year 13 students. These can be collected from the 6th form refectory area.

We will then be open for students to collect their GCSE results on **Thursday 24th August** from 10am until 1pm. Those students holding an offer of a place in the 6th form will be able to enrol on this day with a member of the leadership team up until 1pm.

Anyone wishing to have their results posted home must provide a stamped addressed envelope. If students wish for parents/carers to collect their results on their behalf, they must send a signed letter with the person collecting the results and notify the school in advance to our exams officer, Mrs S Partlett.



Start of the new summer term

The new term will begin on **Wednesday 6th September for all students.**

- Our new Year 7, Year 11, and Year 12 students being welcomed at **9.00am**
- Year 9 will be welcomed at **10.00am**
- Year 8,10,13 will be welcomed at **10.30am**

Students will spend the time leading up to Period 3 with their tutors in order to collect their timetables and will then commence lessons as of Period 3 on that day.

Useful reminders

Mr Gregory has already written about our uniform expectations and the use of phones in school. I would like to reiterate his message and ask for your support in backing up the school to ensure we maintain a calm, orderly atmosphere so we can concentrate on learning. As a parent with two of my own children in secondary school, I know that consistent boundaries create a safe, reassuring atmosphere for all to learn.

Attendance

Like you, the school prides itself on good attendance figures. Your child's attendance at school is monitored on a daily basis by our new Attendance Director and notable absences or patterns of absences are followed up by the Head of Year; in more serious cases the Education Welfare Service. **I would like you to be aware that the education Welfare Officer may contact parents/carers and visit addresses should your child be absent from school or during an absence audit. As per the Government's direction on attendance, we are unable to authorise any term time holidays – these are Government initiatives. We recognise that families are desperate to get away and enjoy some much needed time together. Unfortunately, we simply can't authorise these and the Local Authority often issue fixed penalty notices as a result.**

Parent/ Carer Forum

Every term we hold a meeting with parents and carers to discuss school issues and share ideas. If you'd like to get involved with our Parents/ Carers forum please do contact your child's Head of Year or Ms C. Bartlett.

And finally, I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support. Your support is crucial in helping the school build your child's success. In the meantime, have a really lovely summer break.

Yours faithfully



Dr T. Close
Associate Headteacher

