

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

24th June 2022

Dear Parent/Carers,

A very fond farewell to our Year 11 youngsters who have their Leavers' Assembly today. It has not been an easy few years for any of us and your education, along with that of every other young person of school age, and indeed the last two Year 11 year groups has been a challenge.

I have been impressed by those of you who have just got on with it. Sometimes things happen that are beyond our control, and this has been one of them. There are always choices in life and decisions to be made, either feel sorry for yourself over what has happened or just roll your sleeves up and get on with things, albeit slightly differently, resilience.

Talking Learning

Monday after school saw us spend some quality time with quite a few of our youngsters where they sat down with staff and spoke about the work in their books and what they had been doing in class. They were proud to show off what they have been studying and were very articulate. They were also incredibly honest with the feedback being: they would like more Home Learning, more extended writing so they get the higher marks, the opportunity to draft and redraft their work, and they prefer more personalised feedback.

A great way to get regular feedback on teaching and learning and something we will act upon and continue to do half-termly. One of our challenges has been to increase the engagement in Home Learning, hence the reason why we introduced Tassomai for our basic homework. This increases memory retrieval and really focus on retention of the knowledge. Engagement is really impressive and stands at 92% of our youngsters completing their daily goals each and every day, we will continue to push this figure.

Our next phase of our Home Learning push is to work on getting our youngsters used to writing for longer. We know that this takes resilience and when it comes to exams the higher mark questions are the ones where you just simply have to write for longer, hitting all the criteria for that particular subject and question of course. Daunting at first, but it is the same as most things, the more you do, the easier it becomes.

Year 7

From this coming Monday 27th June Year 7 will be going to break at 11.00am and lunch at 1.20pm in line with the rest of the school. Now that Year 11 have departed this should give them a few weeks to get into the swing of things for September. Already this week they have moved onto the Year 8 field as every year group has moved along one.

Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) – Mrs Handford

DEAR time will take place next week on Tuesday, period 5. Well done to Years 7 and 8 for a lovely DEAR session this week. Well done also to Sam W, Rhianna U, Lexie A, Eryn S, Bella R and Evie B for their fantastic work promoting oracy in assemblies this week.

Next week, on Thursday 30th June, we will be holding a second-hand book sale, where there will be a variety of books to buy. Pupils are welcome to come to the Opportunities Hub at break time and at lunch time to buy books for themselves or others. Thank you for your support.



Return to normal hours

Monday 27th June sees us revert back to our normal timetable which will be:

8.45am – 9.00am – Tutor
9.00am – 10.00am – Period 1
10.00am – 11.00am – Period 2
11.00am – 11.20am – Break
11.20am – 12.20pm – Period 3
12.20pm – 1.20pm – Period 4
1.20pm – 2.00pm – Lunch
2.00pm – 3.00pm – Period 5

Moving forward

A somewhat challenging week this week but I always take the chance to step back and reflect. There will always be obstacles in the way and people with different outlooks on life, many varying opinions and people that just do things that are just beyond comprehension. Things change and many situations just cannot be planned for. One thing is for sure though; it is an absolute honour to be leading our school. The more I talk to our young people the more I see what we are trying to do here, the more I witness the positivity around this place, the more confidence it gives me to keep pushing forward.

There will always be another challenge around the corner working with this many people, the overwhelming majority of them being teenagers, will always make for an interesting day. I am looking forward to meeting all our new intake next Monday and Tuesday as Year 6 have their Taster Days, it gives me a real boost for what they will experience with us from September.

As a historian I am used to looking back, but it's much more exciting looking forward.

Best wishes,

Mr David Wright
Head Teacher