

April 22nd 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We returned from the Easter holiday to the tragic news that one of our Year 10 students, Sean, died last Thursday after being taken ill at home. This came as a real shock to staff and students, especially to Year 10. We send our deepest sympathies and thoughts to Sean's family and friends and we will look to see how we can best pay appropriate tribute and respect as a school. Some of Sean's friends lay flowers in school yesterday.



May Sean rest in peace.

A few reminders

- Students are encouraged to be drinking water during the school day (fizzy drinks are not allowed and would be confiscated) but they need to have their own water bottles. We do not have disposable cups to give out. Water bottles can be filled from the water fountains before school as well as at break and lunch.
- The cost of a meal deal has increased by 10p to £2.40. The increased amount has automatically been allocated to those in receipt of free school meals.
- The detention nights for each year group are
 - Monday Year 9
 - Tuesday Year 10
 - Wednesday Year 7 and 11
 - Thursday Year 8
 - Friday Year 11

If a student is timed out of a lesson the 20 minute detention is on the same night and so they join whatever year group is on.

Students who fail to attend detention are then put into an 80 Minute Headteacher's detention on either a Wednesday or Friday evening.

- Mobile phones are not allowed to be used in school and should not be seen while students are on the premises unless a student has permission from a member of staff. Students are very aware that if phones are seen they will be confiscated and returned to parents, as laid out in the Behaviour Policy. If a phone is confiscated I would ask that you speak to your child about the importance of following school rules and accepting responsibility.

Uniform Policy

There is no current change to uniform but I attach the updated document which has 2 changes:

- The addition of a second uniform supplier
- The strong recommendation that student have personal protective equipment in PE including shin pads for football and gum shield for rugby and hockey.

Please do ensure students leave home wearing uniform appropriately – especially regarding no make up or fake tan, jewellery, skirt length and footwear. All schools have uniform rules and if these are reinforced at home it does have a really positive effect.

Now that we are in the summer term the adjustments made over the winter allowing students to wear coats in class, because of Covid ventilation, no longer apply.

Year 11

There are now just 14 school days to the start of the main exam season and in those 14 days some students will have Spanish speaking tests, GCSE PE moderation and coursework to finalise – all of which are crucial components in securing good grades. We want all year 11 focussed for this final push towards the exams but I will not hesitate to suspend any year 11 who is disturbing learning during this period. Every student will shortly receive a personalised timetable of lessons, exams and revision sessions to cover the exam period which lasts until June 23rd. They will all be in school full time until at least May 27th.

We will then look forward to celebrating the end of exams on July 6th with our Leavers' Breakfast, Assembly and Prom.

This week I received some information from Mercedes Benz regarding apprenticeships:

Mercedes-Benz are currently recruiting for apprentices across a variety of roles, in our nationwide network of retailers and dealers. We have vacancies for Light Vehicle and Heavy Vehicle Technicians, Customer Service Experts and Retail Parts Advisors.

Information can be found at <https://mercedes-benztraining.co.uk/mercedes-benz-academy-programme.aspx>. Using their home postcode, students can search for vacancies in their local areas and then make an application. Our vacancies are constantly changing, with new positions being added regularly. If a student is unable to find something in their local area initially, please do encourage them to check back regularly as new positions may become available.

Our apprenticeships are open to students who are 16 and over (they must be 16 to start the programme in September, so can apply whilst they are 15), and ideally we look for students with a grade 4 or above in English and Maths at GCSE.

Covid

Government guidelines no longer allow for the regular LFT testing and these tests are not routinely available without cost. In effect we return to all normal absence policies in school unless someone tests positive on a PCR in which case the guidance is that people under 18 years old should avoid contact with others for 3 days.

Finally...

Many congratulations to Daniel in year 10 who has had further success with his music. He recently passed grade 8 trombone with Distinction and played 1st trombone at a concert of the National Youth Concert Band in Birmingham University.

With best wishes.



Andrew Waller
Headteacher