

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

This week has seen the year 10 sit many more of their pre-public examinations and they now have their final week of these. These exams have taken on more meaning since Covid as they will be used as evidence for their final GCSE grades if there is any disruption to the exam period next year.

We've also had some key activities related to careers and next steps for our year 9 & 10 students this week – please read the articles below for more information.

In our staff INSET day this week, we are meeting the new staff who will be joining us next year as part of our natural growth as a school. We are also introducing all staff to our key foci for next academic year. These include preparation for our first cohort of year 11, the development of our Sixth Form and a continued focus for our students on the strength and behaviours of our community.

This week we hosted some diocese staff who were interviewing for a new youth lead. A group of our students formed a student panel as part of the interview. All visitors were extremely impressed with the panel and the general conduct of all students in school. We received a lovely thank you letter with the following comments:

*I would like to mention the 4 students who took part in the interview process and came to listen to the candidates' presentations. They were attentive and then confident when questioning the candidates and gave insightful feedback to the panel. They really are a credit to the school.*

*I was also impressed with the calm manner in which the students conducted themselves around school.*

We are very proud of the way our students have settled so much over the year but it's also great to have external visitors notice our calm, positive environment too.

Yours faithfully  
Mrs Brown  
Headteacher

### Key Dates

Just a reminder that due to year 8 parents evening, **all students will finish school at 2.15pm on Wednesday 29 June.**

**Friday 1 July is an INSET for staff and so school is closed for all students.**

Year 10 work experience week takes place week beginning 4 July

### Bible verse of the week

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:2

## Sixth Form Planning

On Monday, our new Head of Sixth Form: Mr McIntyre, came in to school to start some exciting Sixth Form planning. Whilst our Sixth Form is still a year away, it is important that we are ready to take the Sixth Form admissions that will start part way through the Autumn term.

A group of approximately 35 students stayed after school to work with Mr McIntyre on some key planning elements such as: branding, marketing, study and workroom spaces together with the dress code. Their next step is to form smaller working groups to be able to plan in more detail. These activities help our year 10 students to gain some valuable work-related skills such as teamwork, communication and the ability to work with external professionals. It also shows the importance we place on making sure that our students play a key role in developing our school.

## The Big Bang Careers Fair

On Thursday we took 50 year 9 students to The Big Bang STEM Fair at the NEC in Birmingham. The trip was aimed at students who will be studying Engineering Design or Triple Science next year, in order to inspire them about where their studies could lead in the future. The students had a great time exploring the exhibitor stands and taking part in hands-on activities such as robot coding, slime-making and virtual reality. They also particularly enjoyed collecting various prizes and 'freebies' from employers such as the RAF, Rolls-Royce, Network Rail and higher education providers such as Birmingham City University - some students even made it their 'mission' to visit as many stands and collect as much as they could! The trip also gave them the opportunity to interact with young people their own age from other schools across the country. We have been very impressed with how our students demonstrated the FAITH values across the whole day.

A big thank you to the staff for organising and supporting such a valuable trip.

