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Dear Parents and Carers,

Just a quick update from me as we reach the end of our first half term. I really don't know where the time goes. I'll try to be brief, as I know you're busy people.

Firstly, a reminder that if you need us, we're here. I appreciate that many of you don't live locally, and that traffic at the start and end of the school day is particularly challenging at the moment. Please remember that we can always arrange for you to come in and see us, and we're never more than a phone call or email away. We won't always have the answer to everything, but we can certainly listen, offer advice and point you in the right direction.

Talking of traffic, many of you will have noticed that work has started on the new leisure centre. It's an exciting development for the local community, although inevitably a little frustrating in the short term, particularly as pedestrian access to school will be affected for a while. We're working closely with the contractors to make sure that parents, carers and anyone arriving on foot can continue to access school safely. Thank you for your patience while the work takes place.

Post-16 transport
Many of you will have received a letter this week regarding proposed changes to post-16 transport. I'm going to step slightly outside my usually cautious approach here and say that I am genuinely concerned about the direction Nottinghamshire County Council appears to be taking. The proposals could see significant changes to how transport is funded, with families receiving a grant payment instead of arranged school transport in many cases.

Having spent many years as a headteacher juggling school finances, I fully understand the pressures on public funding and the difficult decisions that sometimes need to be made. However, I worry that, in trying to balance the books, we risk placing the greatest burden on some of our most vulnerable young people and families, particularly those whose voices are not always the loudest. For many of our students, transport isn't simply a convenience. It's what makes accessing education possible.
There will be an opportunity for families to respond to the consultation, and I'll make sure the details are shared through our social media pages. I would encourage you to have your say.

Foxwood Secondary
On a much more positive note, you may have seen in the media that Foxwood Secondary held its official groundbreaking event this week. Those of you who have been following the project will know that the ground was well and truly broken back in the summer! However, with the steel structure going up this half term, things are really starting to take shape. I don't want to tempt fate, but everything seems to be moving ahead well at the moment. Fingers crossed! It's exciting to see something we've talked about for so long becoming a reality.

And finally, something that says a great deal about our staff.
A group of Foxwood staff recently took part in the Nottingham Half Marathon in memory of three of our students. Together, they raised over £3,000 for local charities. I want to make a particular point here. This wasn't something organised or facilitated by the school. It was simply a group of our amazing staff who decided they wanted to do something, and then went out and did it, entirely out of the kindness of their own hearts. It's a lovely reminder of the people we have working at Foxwood. I'm incredibly grateful to them, and it's an honour to be part of that team.

With that, I'll leave you to enjoy what I hope will be a restful half term. As always, please keep in touch if you need us.

Yours sincerely



James Hutchinson
Headteacher