



19 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As the term draws to a close for Christmas I wanted to provide you with an update on some changes to the pastoral structure for the start of next term and share some of the recent events in school.

Firstly, governors would like to pass on their thanks to parents who attended the governors forum and uniform consultation. They are currently reflecting on the views provided by parents and the house captains from each house before considering their next steps.

Year 11 have been immersed in their GCSE mock exams for the last two weeks and their attitude and approach have been excellent. The exams took place in our brand new sports hall and when we finally get access to it for PE lessons it will be a fantastic asset both during lessons and for fixtures and clubs at lunchtime and after school.

One of this terms highlights was the inspirational Soroptimists event for our Year 10 girls who have launched their very own school Soroptimists groups and raised money for a variety of charities. More recently Christmas music has been floating down the corridors, not only with children singing and performing at lunch time but also during the lovely Christmas concert that took place last week. From rock bands to choirs it was an eclectic mix of performances of an exceptionally high standard. We had some very proud parents in the audience at both events.

I have also been informed this week that we have record numbers of children who have signed up for their bronze, silver and gold DofE. Furthermore, we held our first achievers break for each year group with the spot light on those students nominated for their positive contribution in school this term. These successes are a testament to the excellent community spirit within school and the support provided by parents.

Academically, sixth form and year 11 students are making sure their coursework is up to the required standard before we break-up and we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our Knowledge Organiser 2 for Year 7 & 8. They have been so successful that we are looking to introduce them to other year groups from next September. Meanwhile, GCSE Pod has now had over 40,000 pods viewed and we are currently second in the North West league.



On a safety front the school is liaising with Warrington road safety partnership and Bikeability to run sessions for students on keeping safe and more detailed information will be announced by Mrs Malone in the New Year.

Following the decision to expand the pastoral team a number of appointments have subsequently been made and we are now in a position to share the new team with parents and students. As we have gone from a house team of nine to 18 we have arranged temporary office space in the short term with more permanent locations planned once all the building projects have been completed.

	<b>Austen</b>	<b>Bannister</b>	<b>Newton</b>	<b>Parks</b>	<b>Stephenson</b>	<b>Thompson</b>
Head of House	Mrs Masher	Ms Bayne	Mr Doyle	Mrs Lee	Mrs Steele	Mr Stewart
Deputy Head of House	Miss Dorkin	Miss Wilson	Ms Simms-Crewe	Miss Crowder	Mrs Burgess	Miss Sedgwick
House Officer	Mr Prescott	Mrs Rodgers	Mrs Canning	Mrs Ireland	Mrs Buchan	Mrs Adams

As you are aware we have had a spate of various winter illnesses in the locality and in school, we have been in regular contact with Public Health England and have been following their advice and guidance. While we have not been instructed to instigate a deep clean of the school, governors and the trust have taken the proactive and precautionary step to do this in January before we return.

Finally, we are saying goodbye to Mr Rose who is retiring and Mr Bate and Mr Bentham who are moving to new schools following promotion. We wish them well for their next chapter.

On behalf of all staff and governors I would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas with your friends and family and we look forward to seeing students at 8.25am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Shannon

Headteacher