

Moat Community College Maidstone Road, Leicester, LE2 OTU Principal Mr. B Killeen 0116 2625705 office@moat.leicester.sch.uk moat.leicester.sch.uk

14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## **Dear Parents/Carers**

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. As we move through the school year the Moat staff continue to work hard to care for our students and promote excellent outcomes. We continue to be grateful for your support. Our partnership with our parents and community is the bedrock of Moat's success.

# **Mental Health Information**

We continue to promote positive mental health with our students. We have recently shared information on our school app on two vital aspects of mental health for your people:

- The importance of a good sleep pattern
- The importance of limiting screen time

If you have not yet read the information and discussed it with your children; I urge you to do so. We have already held one parental event this term on the subject of Mental Health. We will be holding another one on 15th February 2024.

## **Measles Information**

There has been a rise in the number of cases of measles in the city in recent months. It is vital that all children and adults have had the MMR jab to protect themselves and their families. We are offering this in school on the 13th December. If your child has not yet been immunised; I urge you to take up this offer. Alongside this letter is some information which we have received from the NHS, concerning the symptoms and risks associated with measles. It also contains information on the MMR immunisation.

# The Middle East Conflict

Our students and staff have been extremely concerned with events in the Israel and Palestine. We have been incredibly impressed in how our students have shown maturity in their response to the conflict and expressed a desire for peace. I am sure that we all wish for a peaceful outcome to the conflict as soon as possible.

We held an assembly on the situation and a one-minute silence to remember all the victims in the conflict. As always, Moat students wanted to do something practical to help. On Friday 10th November we held a fund-raising day and raised over £1300. These funds will go towards humanitarian aid in Gaza.

We are very proud of the response and the maturity that our students have shown.

#### Remembrance

On Friday 10th November we held our Remembrance two-minute silence. Earlier that week we had held a whole school assembly on Remembrance. During the silence we remember members of the armed forces who have lost their lives in the conflicts from World War 1 onwards. Our students take this very seriously and understand its significance. In particular we remember the 'Moat Boys'. This is a group of ex-Moat students who lost their lives in World War 1. We have a beautiful memorial to them in our Humanities Department.









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#### Attendance

Since the pandemic attendances in schools across the country have dropped significantly. Moat continues to have student attendance which is above the national average. However, I would still like to remind you of the vital importance of good attendance. High level of school attendance is closely linked to higher exam results. All students should aim for attendance of at least 95%.

When attendance drops to 90%, this is equivalent to missing four weeks in a school year. When attendance drops to 85%, this is equivalent to missing eight weeks in a school year. Missing this number of weeks in a school year will clearly have a detrimental impact on students' achievement.

## Parents' Evenings

We are always happy to welcome our parents into school. Attendances at Parents' Evenings are always excellent.

We would like to give you some advance notice of the dates of our Parents' Evenings for this year:

Year 8	30 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 11	20 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 10	18 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 7	8 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 9	7 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 11	21 <sup>st</sup> March (Online event)

# Calendar for the Year Ahead

The calendar showing our holiday pattern for the year ahead can be viewed via this link: <u>https://moat.leicester.sch.uk/termdates</u>

In particular I would like to draw your attention to two closure days that fall 'within term time':

- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April or Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April School will be closed on one of these dates, depending on when Eid falls. Parents will be notified the evening before.

#### **Mock Exams**

Our year 11 students will be starting their mock exams on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Our year 10 students will also be taking their mock in English Literature. We wish them all good luck! They have been working hard.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mr B Killeen

Mr B Killeen Principal





