



**Principal's Newsletter
Issue 13 - May 2019**

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the second spring term Principal's newsletter for parents and carers. This newsletter will provide an overview of the key events from our last half term and information about some important changes that are being introduced during this term.

Exam Period

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students and their teachers have been working hard to prepare for the exam period. There have been after school classes, classes over Easter, a visiting theatre company to help with revision for English literature and a number of 'de-stressing' activities to help support our hard-working students. If there is any further way in which we can help your child during this period please contact us in the usual way. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students (and their families!) all the best of luck for the exams.

Red Nose Day

Our student leaders coordinated various activities to raise money for Comic Relief including 'I'm a teacher get me out of here!' eating challenge, non-uniform day and selling popcorn during break times. They managed to raise an impressive £1694.

Easter Service

Our final event of the Spring Term was the Easter service which was led by Alex our Chaplain and Nick Dilkes (Team Leader for Music). It included some excellent performances from our student band and choir where a particularly spirited version of Amazing Grace was the standout as well as two of our new student leaders (Nicole Stanley and Awaad Faisal) who shared excellent readings from the Bible of the Easter story. It was a fantastic way to end the term.

TSCA Round Square Conference 2019

We are in the final stages of planning for our own conference which takes place 3rd – 8th June. We will be hosting delegates from Denmark, Pakistan, Peru, India, Canada, South Korea, Armenia, Germany, Bangladesh, Tanzania and Argentina. Our student leaders have been playing a key role and I am excited to see what they have planned.

New Behaviour Policy

Our current behaviour policy is under review as we do not believe that the system quite matches with how we want to work with young people. The new system, which is yet to be finalised, will involve a period of adjustment and training but we anticipate it should be in full swing by September 2019. We are hoping to trial the proposed changes towards the end of this term so that we can make any necessary adjustments. The revised policy, once approved by our governors, will be available on our website in the autumn term. As always, we will be welcoming feedback through the usual channels.

Attendance

In our last newsletter we informed you that we would be asking students to complete an attendance survey. 517 students completed the survey and showed great maturity with their honest answers.

- 124 students said if they were in the Consequences Room it would stop them attending that day.
- 142 students thought it was acceptable to have attendance below 93% (Academy expectation 95% or above).
- 211 students said they might or would have the day off if they were late.
- 104 students would stay at home if they didn't have PE kit ready.



- 340 students sometimes do struggle to sleep at night. Reasons for this included technology such as phones or gaming, stress, worry and overthinking of homework which they haven't completed.

These responses and others, will be analysed and will help us tailor our school policies and to target our work with students and parents, with particular attention being paid to those who are under achieving due to poor attendance.

Key dates this term

8 th and 9 th May	Dance Showcase
27 th to 31 st May	Half Term break
3 rd to 8 th June	Round Square, Adventure Awaits Conference
Tuesday 4 th June	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 11 th June	Year 6 Parents' Information Evening
Thursday 20 th June	Year 11 Prom
Monday 24 th June	Sports Awards Evening
24 th to 28 th June	Year 7 Residential
Thursday 27 th June	Sports Day
Friday 5 th July	Year 8 Graduation
8 th – 10 th July	Year 6 Induction Days
Tuesday 9 th July	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 17 th July	Reports available via ParentPortal
Monday 22 nd July	Start of summer break
Tuesday 3 rd September	Students return to school following summer break

Please refer to our calendar on the website for further dates.

And finally...

Thought for the half term – from Alex our Chaplain

In the last few days we have been made aware of a UN report that points to many pitfalls and dangers facing our planet and its resources both locally and globally, and of course we recently witnessed the awful scenes of the effects of plastics in our oceans through the incredible work of Sir David Attenborough and his team. It seems that many of us have neglected this God-given resource and we are now beginning to see the real-life consequences that will face future generations.

These problems bring with them amazing possibilities. It brings about the opportunity for us to work together and stand shoulder to shoulder in rebuilding lost habitats, rethinking our eating and shopping habits as well as how we use energy and valuable resources. We currently waste up to one third of the food we produce, while many still go hungry; this is a real opportunity to make a worldwide difference by being good stewards of our resources.

Jesus teaches that we are to look after our neighbour and in the story of the Good Samaritan, Luke explains that being a neighbour is not about the people next door or even the people just like us. As human beings we are all neighbours and, with this in mind, we must take seriously the decisions we make that affect others, even those in future generations.

Yours faithfully

Lisa McVeigh
Principal