



9th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

This half term has been a shorter one of just five weeks, but we have still managed to fit plenty in as usual! A variety of activities and opportunities have taken place since Christmas including:

- Languages Week
- Year 9 & 10 Career Days
- Year 9 Progress Evening
- Year 9 Project Flavour Day
- Year 11 Mock Exams
- Year 7 PSHE Day
- Year 9 Guided Choices and Taster Days
- Year 10 Project Can Do
- Year 8 Progress Evening
- Various Sporting Fixtures
- Legally Blonde Musical

Please refer to the calendar on our [website](#) for future events and other important information.

Legally Blonde Musical

This week we have seen two performances of our musical for the year - Legally Blonde. The poor weather yesterday couldn't stop the audience from flocking to closing night to enjoy an evening of music, singing, dancing, humour and some incredible acting and individual performances not least from Daisy Seymour in the lead part of Elle Woods. Well done to all the cast and crew and for our staff and families who supported the hours of rehearsals and the performances themselves. Looking forward to next year already!

Important Changes

Please note some important changes for after half term regarding the arrival and entrance of students in the mornings. We will be asking students to enter the building by the main front door (the Abbey Road gate will still be opened but students will need to walk around the building to the front entrance). This is so that we can greet every single student as they arrive and check their uniform is being worn correctly, in accordance with our uniform expectations. All exits at the end of the day will remain as they are now.

We know that standards have slipped and we want to ensure students are practiced at meeting expectations at school as they will need to be doing so later on throughout their working lives. Staff will ensure that students are prepared for a positive day before they go to their tutor and lessons. The main issues that we have identified and will focus on are:

- Jewellery is limited to one 'non-smart' watch. No other items of jewellery are permitted, please note that if worn it will be confiscated for collection at the end of the day. We encourage that these items, and any other items of value, are not brought into school as we cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage.



- Shoes must be sensible plain black with no visible branding. Trainers are not permitted and we may contact you to help resolve this issue if identified, or we will arrange for students to loan a pair of shoes.
- Trousers should be black with no visible branding. Leggings are not permitted and we may contact you to help resolve this issue if identified, or we will arrange for them to loan something suitable.
- Skirts, if worn, should be branded from the approved uniform supplier and must be worn at knee length. We may contact you to help resolve any issues identified or arrange to loan something suitable.
- Hoodies and jumpers are not permitted and will be confiscated for collection at the end of the day. We strongly encourage students to bring a coat to wear during break or lunch, especially during the colder months and these will need to be kept in bags or lockers at all other times when in school.

We will issue appropriate sanctions where required for the loan of uniform, we will also seek to recoup the costs for any items that are not returned. We appreciate your ongoing support with helping to address these issues and as always, we are happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have regarding any of the above. A reminder of our uniform expectations and details of our uniform supplier can be found on our [website](#).

MyChildAtSchool – MCAS App

We can now confirm that we will be transferring our payment system from WisePay to Bromcom during the half term break. We therefore ask that you carry out the following actions:

- Please **do not** use WisePay after 11am on Thursday 15th February to make any payments. This will allow us to transfer your balance and other information across to your MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) account.
- From Friday 16th February, you will be able to check your balance in your MCAS account in advance of your child returning to school on Monday 19th February. Please top up if required to make sure your child has sufficient funds to purchase lunch and snacks.
- To top up funds using MCAS, simply use the 'Dinner Money' widget (this may appear at the bottom of your home page in the app). If you would like a more detailed insight of transactions, please use the website version of MCAS. Adding funds is fairly straight forward but if you would like further guidance about how to do this you can view this [here](#).
- If you have any issues at all regarding payments or your balance, please contact us at finance@tscacademy.org.uk and we will be able to respond to you quickly to resolve these.
- Please check to make sure you can login to your MCAS account asap. If you are experiencing any problems, please contact us at bromcom@tscacademy.org.uk.

It is important to note that from Monday 19th February, you will **not** be able to top up your child's lunch account by debit or credit card over the phone, or at our Student Information Desk (SID) as we will no longer have the facility to take payments this way. All payments will need to be made through your MCAS account.

We thank you in advance for your support with these changes. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this, please contact us to discuss.

Message from our Chaplain

It may seem that our world is becoming more and more chaotic as every day goes by. Conflict, war, famine, and natural disasters seem to punctuate almost every news bulletin. Add in some divisive politics and the constant news feed of a financial crisis, it all makes for grim listening or viewing.



It would be easy for our focus to be on these things, and while we mustn't remain ignorant of the world around us, it is right to protect our own mind and well-being.

St Paul encourages us to ponder on the following, whatever is true, pure, noble, right, lovely and admirable, whatever is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things (Philippians 4:8).

Could I encourage you today to look out for the positive, purposefully seek what is good and what is excellent, so that we can maintain a well-balanced view of what is around us and so that we can maintain a positive and hope filled outlook.

Finally, can I thank you for your continued positivity and support. We hope you and your families have an enjoyable break and we look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday 19th February.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa McVeigh'.

Lisa McVeigh
Principal