



28th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we reach the end of another term that has seen a variety of activities, it is important to recognise and praise all of our students for their achievements and efforts and our rewards event this week has done just that! We continue to provide support where it is needed and would encourage you to contact us if your child is struggling, or there is anything we can do to help them. We know that for Year 11 and Year 13 they may be feeling the additional pressure of exams that are approaching for them and want to help in any way we can.

Events this Term

This week we have seen two outstanding dance showcase performances – the Wonderland Dance Showcase. Well done to all the dancers involved and for our staff and families who supported the hours of rehearsals and the performances themselves. Looking forward to next year already!

A huge well done to our Sixth Form Student Leaders who organised a popular bake sale and non-uniform day for Comic Relief and managed to raise £1,343.42.

Additional activities and opportunities that have taken place since February half term include:

- Year 11 Progress Evening
- SEND Pastoral Evenings
- Year 7 Progress Evening
- World Book Day
- PSHE Drop Down Days
- Listen Up Conference
- Year 10 & 11 Box Clever Performance
- Year 11 Lea Green Residential Trip
- Various Sporting Fixtures

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

Academy+

Students have been working extremely hard to raise funds towards the £50 challenge and this has certainly ramped up a gear in recent weeks. Congratulations to those who have already completed the challenge! For those who haven't managed it yet, don't worry as we have decided to extend the target date to the end of the summer term to allow students time to carry out their plans during the final term. For more information about Academy+ or to make a donation, please visit our [website](#).

Bags 2 School Donation Day - Don't forget, you can support us by donating any unwanted clothing on Monday 22nd April, 8-8.30am and 3-3.30pm and on Tuesday 23rd April, 8-8.30am.

Important Changes

To continue our drive to improve standards, we wrote to parents and carers last week to explain some tightening up of expectations and the removal of an extra in class warning. Although this has not been easily popular with students, I am pleased to report that it has led to the near elimination of low-level dilution to learning in lessons already this week. We will continue to monitor this to ensure all students



are practiced at meeting these expectations as they will need to be doing so later on throughout their working lives. We are very grateful for your support and for how our wonderful students have responded to these changes this week.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance is still an area that needs to improve, and we desperately need your help to ensure all students attend school as much as possible. We know that there will always be an element of unavoidable absence, but we are seeing too many occasions of students being off when it seems unnecessary and receive calls and messages from home every day that do not seem to be helping the situation. Rather than call to say they are sick, please get in touch if you are struggling to get your child into school and we will do all we can to find out what the real issues are and help in any way we can.

We are also seeing too many students arriving to school late which causes disruption to lessons and, of course, poor preparation for working life. Please make sure that your child is aware they need to leave enough time to arrive through the main reception doors no later than 8.30am.

MyChildAtSchool – MCAS App

We thank you for your patience and understanding following the changes implemented this half term. All payments are now made through your MCAS account (including trips and events) and we are no longer using WisePay. It is important that you make sure your own contact information and records for your child, including medical information, is up to date and that you notify us of any changes. You can do this quickly and easily through MCAS in the 'Data Collection' menu. Please note that when changing or adding medical information you will need to click submit changes in that section and again at the top of the page once completed. If you are struggling and need any help with this please let us know.

Message from our Chaplain

Driving in to work earlier this week I noticed that where we recently had roadworks signs, cones, and uncovered iron works, we now have a smooth road surface and even a grassy island with a host of daffodils in full bloom, I know which I prefer.

I also know, however, to get to the things we prefer we also have to go through a process that can sometimes be painful. I remember several occasions, forgetting about the roadworks and finding myself frustrated at the extra time added onto my journey, I also know that the noise and disruption experienced by those living close by was even more painful. I am however grateful for the result, the smoother ride with a lesser chance of damage via potholes etc and even a reminder of spring each morning.

I know many in our community are feeling pain right now, and maybe you are too. I just want to remind you that sometimes we experience pain of all kinds on our way to becoming a better version of ourselves. Spring is on its way.

Have a blessed Easter

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 15th April.

Yours faithfully

Lisa McVeigh
Principal