24 November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Over this term it has been amazing to see the students adjust so quickly to the school’s learning habits and the higher expectations of student conduct and uniform. I am writing to inform you of how we intend to maintain the highest expectations, provide important information for the rest of this term, and share key dates for the new spring term 2023.

**Learning Habit - Homework**

Now that students have had a term to become accustomed to the expectations surrounding our learning habits, we will now move to implementing our fourth learning habit - **Homework**.

Students are expected to complete all homework assigned to them each night. You will receive a homework timetable that informs you of what homework they should expect and when. Students have five different homework’s; revision from knowledge organisers, low stakes quizzes, vocabulary revision, reading tasks and exam style questions. Alongside this, students should be reading for a minimum of 20 minutes each night. In the coming weeks, they will be trained on how to complete this in a lesson with their teachers. Learning powerful knowledge in this way means that they are well set up to recall it in lessons and in any tests or exams. We know that our students tell us that they don't know how to revise. Teaching this early on gives them the technique to succeed.

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School sanctions will be issued from **Wednesday 4th January 2023** for students not meeting our expectations regarding homework and deadlines.

**Learning Habit – Positive Behaviour**

We will also now move to the next phase of implementing the school’s behaviour system to reduce further distractions that are harmful to your child’s education. One of our values is to be ‘Thoughtful’. Consequently, we will be ‘fair’ and remind students to meet the very highest expectations in upcoming assemblies. From **Monday 12 December,** school sanctions will be issued for students who use **inappropriate language, which is overheard by a member of staff**. I know you all agree, staff and students should be able to work in a school that is free from foul, inappropriate or abusive language.

**Attendance Rewards – Countdown to Christmas**

I will, unapologetically, be talking about attendance in every letter moving forward as it remains a crucial target area for us. I want to remind everyone that our school target is 100% and that anything below this is not an acceptable level of attendance. Thank you to all of the families who have engaged positively with our efforts to support the attendance of each and every student in the school.

There will be a range of special attendance rewards available to our families and students if they achieve **100% attendance from 28 November to 16 December**, these will include:

* Family Christmas hamper with shopping voucher and gifts
* Student hamper with voucher and gifts
* Weekly prize draws for 100% attendance

All prizes will be issued on the last day of term, **16 December 2022.**

**Autumn Term Progress Report for Year 7 – 11 Emailed week commencing 5th and 12th December.**

The report has been designed to be brief and informative, highlighting how hard your child is working and their performance in the mid-year assessments.

The grades are carefully considered teacher judgements and have taken into account your child’s:

* Classwork
* Homework
* Any participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama or PE
* Autumn Term assessments

**KS3 Grouping by Academic Performance**

Since we welcomed our students back to school in September, they have mostly been taught in mixed ability grouping. From **Wednesday 4th January** we will be grouping students in KS3 based on their current academic performance

We believe that grouping students in this way will be beneficial as it means the curriculum will be accessible for all students in the class who will be working at a similar level. This will allow teachers to pace the lesson appropriately so all students can make as much progress as possible during their time at the school. Students will be assessed on a regular basis, if their performance improves they will have the opportunity to move to another teaching group.

When students return after the Christmas break, they should go to their tutor room at the beginning of the day where they will be issued with a new timetable.  Students will be supported by their Year Leader and teaching staff throughout this process.

**Year 7 – 11 Parents’ Evening**

I am delighted to share the date for your child’s Parents’ Evening, more detailed arrangements will be sent to you in the coming weeks. The timings of each event will be 4:00pm – 6:30pm.

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| **Year** | **Date** |
| 11 | Thursday 12 January |
| 7 | Thursday 19 January |
| 8 | Thursday 2 February |
| 9 | Thursday 16 Feb\* |
| 10 | Thursday 2 March |

\*Year 9 Parents’ Evening. There will be a Year 9 Options presentation at 3:30pm, 4:30pm & 5:15pm

As we approach the end of a very long term, I would like to thank you once again for your support. We would like staff and students to enter into the Christmas spirit on the last day of term and wear something festive alongside their school uniform on this day. May I also remind you that school closes for students at **12:05pm on Friday 16th December**.

If you have any questions regarding the information shared in this letter, please contact your child’s Year Leader in the first instance.

Finally, the new spring term starts at **8:35am on Wednesday 4th January 2023,**  and we look forward to welcoming your child back to a happy, ambitious and well-disciplined school.

With Best Wishes



Mr Peter Mee

Head of School