



William Perkin
C of E
High School

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have reached the Easter holidays in good spirits with the opportunity for a restful break ahead of us and much to celebrate in the term behind us.

The William Perkin Spring concert was a great success, and it was a joy to see so many students participating – particularly in the vocal ensembles and year group choirs. The Year 7s' performance of songs from Matilda was particularly impressive and the co-ordination between the schools gives confidence in our Trust strategy to sustain music with a very high profile, building our sense of community. We are delighted that students from all four schools will be part of an Ealing massed choir at the Royal Albert Hall in the summer term and that a different group will take part in a specialist singing programme during Enrichment Week including coaching from the famous Karen Gibson of the Kingdom Gospel choir (of [royal wedding fame](#)). We are proud that from next year the Trust will also be a lead partner in a new West London Music Hub supporting Music in other schools – adding to the outreach we are already undertaking in Modern Languages. What a tribute to the standards in both areas.

Another key area of Trust collaboration is of course of post-16 operation. Purposeful self-regulation has been a key focus for the first graduates of our Digital Tech and Science Sixth Form at Ada Lovelace, which includes a number of William Perkin alumni. The T-Level students explicitly cover very similar employability skills in their programme alongside subject-specific content and this has helped a number of them to win competitive degree-apprenticeship places with our industry partners (meaning a salaried role when they leave Year 13, and all university fees paid). Unsurprisingly, enrolment for next year's Year 12, when we add Accountancy to our portfolio of high-level vocational courses, is very healthy indeed.

Our end of term assemblies and newsletter have celebrated a wide range of other extra-curricular activities, and we are delighted that 60% of students in Years 7-11 have taken part in wider learning activities this term. As you know, this year we have had a real drive on participation – encouraging students to make good, healthy choices in the use of their own time. Our focus on students' learning habits and strong self-regulation is also paying off with students receiving an average of 471

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positive conduct points each in recognition of their positive learning habits in class so far this year. Please continue to reinforce this at home, particularly in relation to prep which remains a target area, so that positive engagement and progress is equally good in the summer term.

We are conscious that there has been a lot in the media about the dangers of uncontrolled use of social media on young people and negative impacts of too much screentime. We are proud to have taken a very firm stance on smartphones in school for over 20 years and have now shared our policies and approaches with a number of other schools as well as campaign groups. Over the holidays we remind parents that it is important to take a controlled approach to mobile phone use in order that students stay safe (and perhaps build on the healthy activities they have done more of at school from sport to board games and – if in doubt – read a book!)

Finally, a checklist to cover in the holiday in readiness for the start of term on **Tuesday 22 April at 11:30am**

- For those that have been published, please ensure you have reviewed your child's grade sheet and celebrated all of their successes in terms of academic progress, positive conduct and engagement. Q3 grade sheets for students in Years 10-13 will be published at or shortly after the end of term, with those for students in Years 7-9 published within the first couple of weeks of next term. Attendance and conduct summaries will be shared for all year groups at the start of the Easter break.
- Equally, please take a formal moment to log what is working less well so that there is openness and determination to address key areas when we return
- Please check that uniform still fits and donate items which don't but are in good condition to the PTFA. This is a gift which gives 4 times (supports recycling, saves money for parents, raises money for the school and avoids students being tempted to wear their uniform that no longer fits them!)
- Please ensure your child has the simplest low cost, school-approved 'brick' phone for purposes of emergency contact only. Smartphones brought into school can be the subject of a bag search at any time on the school site or if seen immediately before or after school and will remain confiscated for the term in either context.

This way we will remain a co-operative and positive school community.

Wishing you both Eid Mubarak and a Happy Easter.

Kind Regards,

Dame Alice Hudson & Ms Amy Newman

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