

JHY/SHY

21 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the first Half Term, I wanted to write to you with some information and updates.

The Half Term for students will finish at the usual school time on Thursday 24 October. Students are not expected in school on Friday 25 October as this is a staff INSET day.

The start of the new Half Term will begin at the usual school time for all students on Monday 4 November.

Standards

As the Headteacher of an improving school, I am passionate that all students have the best possible educational experience. It is key that we enable students to make effective choices and own their conduct and learning. I feel passionately that if we have high standards of every aspect of our school life your child will thrive, be happy and be more successful. I have met and spoken to many parents in my short tenure, and I hope you would agree that I / we always endeavour to do this in a kind and consistent manner to support and benefit all students.

I would like to thank all parents who have supported the approach we are taking to raise standards, the support for your child and the school is key to their / our future success.

I recently presented assemblies to all students on the concept of kindness and integrity. The core messages were about how we want to engage and respect each other as a school community.

We will also be reviewing the duration of lessons, which currently stand at three, one hundred minute lessons. We know that Cognitive Load (the amount of information our working memory can process) is a key factor in how effectively students can retain information. As such, to ensure we continue to drive up standards of learning and progress, we will be consulting educational research and talking to staff and students to see if the duration of our lessons needs to be reviewed.

I pride myself on being a visible Headteacher and it is brilliant to be out at break and lunch time to gain a sense of the atmosphere and talk to students about their daily experience and listen to their views. Regular visits to lessons indicate that students are more settled, and they feel they are able to focus and engage in their learning in a more positive manner.



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Uniform

We have seen a big improvement in the number of students wearing the uniform correctly and with pride. This is an essential tool in building school belonging and cohesion as well as ensuring fairness.

We will shortly be including the option for students to purchase a school scarf. This is an optional extra should students wish to purchase one and will be available via Scopay and collected from the finance office. I have already purchased mine and have been wearing it when supporting our footballers at fixtures on the school field!

Rewards

We are working hard to plan and implement reward events for our students to recognise those who adopt an excellent attitude and effort.

Miss Williams (Head of Year) and I recently spoke to Year 11 students in assembly about the development of a 'common room' style provision which will be located in the building previously referred to as Pathways. The building is being painted and re-purposed for Year 11 students to access at lunchtime. Students have been set the task of re-naming the provision and Miss Williams will continue to communicate with students on the 'criteria' to access the new space. We hope this will recognise those students who come in to school every day and buy in to our culture.

We have also recently posted home over one hundred positive postcards to students who have gone above and beyond in their lessons. It is a small token, but we felt as a school that, receiving a personal card in the post would bring a sense of pride for our students which they can share with their family.

We are also planning rewards events for all other year groups towards the end of the Christmas term with the intention of acknowledging their conduct, attitude and efforts. We aim for these to be accessible to as many students as possible who continue to buy into our school ethos, with the events taking place in school, on school site to remove any cost implications to students. More information will follow.

I wish you a restful break and look forward to seeing our students keen and ready for another eventful half term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Halsey', with a long horizontal line extending to the right above the name.

Miss J Halsey
Headteacher