Dear Parent and Carers,   5th January 2024

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back to the academy this week. Yesterday we held student training sessions focusing on how students can be ready, respectful, responsible and kind. We have just launched 'Kindness Cards' to recognise students for making a positive difference to those around them. Take a moment to ask your child about these and how many they have received so far. It is a lovely opportunity to praise them for being a good person.

Year 11 Parents' Evening. Our Year 11 Parents' Evening will be held on **Thursday 11th January 2024, between 3:30pm and 6:30pm.** Appointments for this event are available to be booked through your Parent Mail accounts. We are incredibly fortunate that local colleges East Coast College and East Norfolk Sixth Form College will be in attendance at this evening, alongside our in school careers team. If you cannot attend Parents' Evening for any reason, then we would actively encourage students to attend independently or with their peers. This way they can still receive support from their class teachers and from local colleges who will be in attendance.

Year 11 Intervention
Since completing the November round of mocks, our Year 11s will now begin a more comprehensive intervention support programme in the lead up to their final exams. Next week (Monday 8th January 2024) we begin our Period 6 programme. Please look out for the new timetable via Parent Mail and on our social media platforms. We know that attendance to school and their Period 6 sessions, will be vital to students fulfilling their potential in their final grades. This has been incorporated in their Passport to Prom and prom points as we know how important this is.

College Open Events (KS4 Students - Year 10 & Year 11)
This term, local colleges are running another series of open events. We would encourage our year 10 and year 11 students to take these opportunities to help them decide upon the next steps in their education, post ODA!

- East Coast College, Lowestoft Campus & Lowestoft Sixth Form College – Wednesday 7th February 2024, 5pm-7pm
- East Coast College, Great Yarmouth Campus – Thursday 8th February 2024, 5pm-7pm
- East Norfolk Sixth Form College – Tuesday 5th March 2024, 4pm-7pm

Home Learning
As with before Christmas, students should be completing home learning on their online platforms Tassomai (English, Science, History and Geography) and Sparx (Maths). These can be accessed through the student launchpad, and students will be able to login with their school login details.

We have been very fortunate today to have representatives from St Giles present assemblies to all year groups. The subjects of the assemblies have been based around knife crime and gang culture, two issues that the whole country is challenged with. I have been very pleased and proud to hear that all students have approached these assemblies with intent and maturity.

Due to some technical issues experienced towards the end of last term, I was not able to present my end of tern video. These issues have now been resolved and I am pleased to confirm this is now available on our website, which can be accessed here.

This is often the time of year when people have a tidy up at home and work out what to keep or give to charity. If you have any rucksacks or bags which would be suitable for school that are unwanted but in good condition, we would love to receive them to help out others who do not have school bags. Similarly, if you have Christmas jumpers that will not be used again, we would appreciate them to help more students take part in Christmas Jumper Day this year (even if it is still a long way off).

The form time focus for next week is "Ready".

PSHE topics next week will be.

Year 7 – How can I stay healthy.

Year 8 – Relationship values.

Year 9 – Why might someone use steroids.

Year 10 – Employment rights.

Year 11 – The value of life.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kate Williams
Principal