



Dear Parent and Carers,

14th March 2025

Within education we often use the term *Personal Development*. It comes up in surveys and it is linked to the Ofsted framework. Sometimes parents tell me they are not sure what this term refers to. Essentially it is about developing students beyond the subjects they study; it is how we prepare them for adulthood and enrich their experiences. This week we have had some nice examples of this. Meredith Winship has been in school delivering a contemporary dance workshop to KS3 students. We also had members of the British Red Cross teaching our KS4 students some first aid as well as the final few Year 11 students completing their college interviews.

Mental Health. Feeling low is a part of all of our lives at some stage. Everyone feels upset, sad or disheartened from time to time, but for some of us it can be a real problem. We don't ever want to confuse student apathy for low mood and so we have recently shared that attached with all staff, and thought parents & carers may benefit from reading it also <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues/low-mood/#signs>

We will be supporting **Red Nose Day on Friday 21st March 2025** by holding a non-school uniform day. Expectations will be as always, i.e.

- No tight shorts (for example cycling shorts or hot pants). PE style shorts can be worn.
- Ripped jeans can be worn with tights or leggings underneath.
- No cropped or strappy tops.
- Skirts or dresses to be knee-length, like the school skirts.
- No inappropriate or offensive slogans or logos.
- Hoodies are allowed; but hoods must be down at all times.
- Hats cannot be worn.
- Jewellery cannot be worn.
- No extreme hair colours or styles.
- PE kit is still required for any student that has PE on that day.

Please remind students to make sure they bring their 5 a Day into school (many of these are kept in blazer pockets)! It is recommended that students bring £1 into school to donate for this event, plus there will be a bake sale held during breaktime so they may want a little more money to buy a cake, cookie, or donut.

Rehearsals are in full swing for this year's **school production of Mary Poppins**. We are running two shows on **2nd and 3rd April, from 7pm** and will let you know how you can get your tickets very soon.

Year 9 Options. Over the next 2 weeks our year 9 students will be holding their options interviews. Can I ask all parents to ensure they have signed their child's options booklet, remembering that by signing it, you are agreeing to the options your child has chosen.

Year 11 – Easter School

Our teachers have offered to give up their time over the Easter break to ensure students have access to expert revision from their subject specialists. Please look out for the timetable on social media, and the separate letter to Y11 parents regarding this.

Year 11 - Leavers' Hoodies

We are delighted to confirm details of our Leavers Hoodies 2025. Leavers' Hoodies will be available to purchase online from Screens from Monday 17th March until Friday 23rd May.



The cost of the hoodies will be £22.50 each with over 80+ colours to choose from.

The hoodies will be available for collection from the school at the Leavers' celebration & assembly on the afternoon of Tuesday 16th June. More information about leavers events will be released to Year 11 Parents in due course.

Year 11 - Exams countdown

Year 11 now have 7 weeks left, which is 5 weeks in school time until the exams begin. This means it is really important that they attend every day whilst their teacher goes through mock feedback and how to gain marks ready for the real exams. We know that good attendance equates to better grades!

Whilst they are in school, accessing support such as Period 6 will also help to boost their grades during this final push.

Year 10 – Home Learning competition

Exciting competition for Year 10 students - there is an interform competition for home learning completion, with the winning form receiving prizes on a weekly basis.

The Form Time Focus next week is "Ready."

We will be teaching the following **PSHE topics** next week. If you do not wish for your child to participate or have a question relating to the subjects, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Year 11 – How democratic is the UK?

Year 10 – What forms of contraception are there?

Year 9 – Who hold power in the UK?

Year 8 – What are the social effects of alcohol?

Year 7 – How can I be safe near rail lines?

Votes for schools - This week students have been voting on "Would you use a local youth space? Will there still be youth spaces in the future? If you would like to continue this discussion with your child, please click [here](#) for further resources.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



Kate Williams

Principal