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18 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Term Update

As we approach the end of term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic start to the academic year. It's been wonderful to see the school achieve its best-ever GCSE and A-Level results over the summer, a huge milestone for our school community that sets a high bar for the year ahead.

There have been so many highlights this term, far too many to list here. To get a real sense of what's been happening, please follow our social media pages and take a look at our end-of-term newsletter. These are great ways to stay connected and see the amazing things our students and staff are achieving every day.

We would like to say a big thank you to all parents and carers for your support this term. Your involvement in school events and activities means so much to us and really helps to build a strong, vibrant school community. On behalf of everyone at the school, we wish you a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break with your loved ones.

Last Day of Term

The final day of term is Friday, 20 December. School will finish early at 12:40 PM. Please note that the Select Bus service will not be running on this day, so please make alternative arrangements to collect your child. It's important that students attend on this day, as we will be celebrating their achievements as a tutor group and individually throughout the morning. Please ensure your child is able to join us for this special day.

Security Fencing

We are pleased to let you know that we've recently invested £60,000 to further enhance our school's safeguarding procedures. This includes installing new perimeter fencing at the

front of the school. The works should be completed over the Christmas break and won't affect the usual morning and afternoon routines for students.



Safeguarding Support

Over the holidays, children and young people often spend more time online, whether on smartphones or gaming platforms. While these can be great for staying connected, they do come with risks such as cyberbullying, scams, or exposure to unsuitable content.

As parents and carers, you play a vital role in keeping your child safe online. Please take time to check the safety settings on any devices they use, monitor their activity, and talk to them about staying safe.

We also recognise that the Christmas holiday is not always a positive time of year for children or families. The current financial climate, poor mental health or reminders of family members who are sadly no longer around, can all contribute to negative feelings. Whilst school is closed, there is plenty of support available for your child or you, throughout the holiday period.

If you have concerns about your child, encourage them to contact one of the organisations below or contact on their behalf:

- Samaritans (24/7): 116 123
- Childline (24/7): 0800 1111
- Young Minds - Shout (24/7 text messaging)
- Call HOPELINEUK on 0800 068 4141
- Text SHOUT to Shout's textline on 85258.
- Call the NHS on 111 and select option 2.
- Papyrus suicide prevention (9am – midnight) 0800 068 4141
- NSPCC (Mon – Fri 8am – 10pm; weekends 9am – 6pm): 0808 800 5000

If you have any safeguarding concerns during the holiday, local support services are available:

- Staffordshire Childrens Advice and Support Service, phone: 0300 111 8007 and select option 1.

Return to School

A quick reminder, Monday, 6 January, is a staff training day (INSET), and the school will be closed to students. Students will return to school on Tuesday, 7 January, and they are expected to be on their zones for 8.30am.

Please make sure your child is in full uniform and comes equipped and ready to learn. A reminder of our uniform expectations can be found [here](#).



Key Dates for the New Term

- Monday, 6 January: INSET Day (school closed to students)
- Tuesday, 7 January: Students return to school (by 8:30 AM) & Y7 Assessments begin
- Monday, 13 January: Y12 PPEs (Mock exams)
- Monday, 20 January: Y8 Assessments begin
- Monday, 3 February: Y10 Assessments begin
- Thursday 6, February: Y9 Options Evening
- Friday, 7 February: Y9 Vaccinations
- Monday, 10 February: Y10 Assessments begin
- Thursday 13, February: Y9 Parents' Evening
- Friday 14, February: School closes at normal time for half term
- Monday 24, February: School opens at normal time.

Thank you again for all your support this term. We can't wait to welcome everyone back in January for another exciting term ahead.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely

Miss R. Sandham
Principal