

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start this week's newsletter by saying how fantastic our students' have been in lessons. I have visited over fifty individual lessons at both the Upper and Lower School and the students have been engaged and working hard in a purposeful and productive manner. It has been a real pleasure to have seen this and see our young people maintaining the fantastic start to the new academic year. Our attendance remains high and above the national average, but I do have some significant concerns over a small proportion of students who are continually late to school. Arriving late means that valuable learning time is missed. I know that traffic has been a challenge over the recent weeks, so I urge you to factor this into your journey to ensure a punctual arrival at school.

At the Upper School, our Year 11 students have been hitting the ground running in preparation for their Post-16 examinations and learning how to revise for these exams. We have to give a special thought to our exam years this year due to the significant disruption that we have all been through over the last couple of years. Continue to the hard work Year 6, Year 11 and Year 13!

Our Year 11 had our annual 'Suited and Booted' event on Wednesday where they had the opportunity to be interviewed by our volunteer professionals. I have to say that Year 11 really turned on the style and looked incredible. I spoke to a number of the students' after their interviews and they all agreed what a fantastic opportunity it was to have an interview before the next ones come their way in their careers.

Mr Atkinson, our Head of the Lower School, sent some extremely valuable information this week to parents about online safety at home. It is clear that young people have spent more time on line during the pandemic and maintaining vigilance to ensure that our young people remain safe is very important. Simple activities such as ensuring there are parental controls, or watching videos together as well as discussing various websites are worthwhile activities. Above all else, it is important that we encourage our students to be kind and be safe and not to share anything on line.

Key Stage 3 additional tuition starts next week which will be a great opportunity for our Years 7, 8, & 9. The main focus of this will be to work with individuals and small groups of students' looking at any gaps that have appeared in their learning over the lockdowns we have been through. Face to face education is the best thing for all of our students and our expert staff are here to support our students as we work together ensuring that we are striving for excellence.

There are a few key dates that are on the horizon and I feel it is a timely reminder of what is ahead:

**Monday 11th October, 5pm**  
**Friday 15th October**  
**Wednesday 20th October, 5pm**  
**25th - 29th October**

**KS2 Maths & English workshop for Parents and Carers**  
**School Closed - INSET Day**  
**KS1 Maths & English workshop for Parents and Carers**  
**Half term - school closed**

**Friday 19th November**  
**Monday 22nd November**  
**Friday 17th December**

**School closed**  
**School closed - INSET Day**  
**Last Day of the Autumn term**

There has been much in the news recently over the 12-15 vaccination programme. We have been notified that the school will be facilitating this for our 12-15 year olds on Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd October. A letter is being sent on behalf of the NHS to all eligible students' parents shortly with all additional information. There will also be a consent form which will require a signature to either consent, or not give consent for the vaccination. It is important that your son/daughter has this consent form with them - without it, the vaccination cannot be given. We will write over the next week to give further information regarding this, and various timings of when we expect the programme to be rolled out.

On a final note, this week we had National Teacher Day and I just want to say a huge thank you to all of our amazing, dedicated teachers for all that they have done for our students' in both our Upper and Lower school. We are lucky to have such a talented and professional group of teachers' working with us.

Whatever your plans are this weekend, please stay safe and hopefully we may get a little autumn sunshine.

Yours faithfully



**Mr R Denial**  
*Executive Headteacher*