

5th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all had a good half term break and everyone is well. It has been nice to see our students back in school this week with such a positive attitude to learning.

I would like to wish our families who are celebrating Diwali a very Happy New Year. Diwali is a time for family, celebration and a time to reflect on life. Swami Vivekananda, who was an Indian Hindu monk said 'All the powers in the universe are already ours. It is we who have put our hands before our eyes and cry that it is dark'. So, it is really up to us to take our hands off our eyes and experience the light. This is symbolically represented by the tradition of lighting lamps during the festival of Diwali. By lighting these lamps, we dispel the darkness, just as we can light the lamp of clarity within to dispel the darkness of ignorance. Happy New Year!

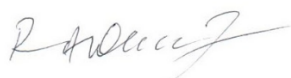
During next Thursday - the 11th of November - we will be holding a minute's silence in remembrance of those that lost their lives in conflict. I hope that many students' wear their poppy with pride throughout next week and embrace the silence as a moment of reflection. We will be discussing remembrance Sunday and its importance in our tutor times. A note to add here is that **Thursday 11th November** is also our **Year 11 parents' Evening** and I know that our staff are looking forward to discussing progress towards the completion of GCSE courses with you. The evening will run between **4.30pm and 7pm**.

Mr Atkinson will be holding an **information evening for parents** at our **Lower School** on **Tuesday 9th November** to discuss important issues and how our Lower School is making fantastic progress - working incredibly hard for our young people. The **remote event** will start at **6pm** and will last no longer than one hour. Ms Siddique and I will be joining Mr Atkinson and it will be good to see as many of our Lower School parents as possible.

At both of our schools, we place great importance on punctuality throughout the day but in particular, at the start of the day. Not only does it ensure a positive start to the day, it also supports our students' in developing a life-essential skill as well as ensuring the safety of your child. From the start of term, we have been working extremely hard to emphasise the importance of arriving on time for school because valuable learning in lessons is being missed. Whilst we have seen a dramatic improvement in the number of students arriving late, there are still a minority that do not arrive on time. It is important to remind everyone that a late arrival at school is an automatic lunchtime detention on the same day. Please can I ask you to discuss the importance of arriving on time to school with your son/daughter, and if needed, review morning routines.

Wishing you all a restful and peaceful weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Denial
Executive Headteacher