

22 September 2023

ACADEMY UPDATE 3

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been brilliant to see so many students receiving positive points, positive postcards and prizes since the start of term. We have been very proud to meet with the students with the highest achievement points in each year group this week, celebrate with them and of course give these students a small prize. So far this year, there have been over 22,000 positive points logged on class charts, compared with 1000 negative points. We will continue to recognise and reward the hard work, dedication and achievement of students throughout the year.

News this week:

As we all know, attendance is vitally important for students to succeed at school; if a student is not in, their learning will be compromised and this can lead to a reduction in opportunities available on leaving school at 16. Please see below some information from our Vice Principal in charge of attendance, Ms Hillman.

Upcoming events:

Thursday 28 September – Open Evening. We will be opening our doors to prospective students on Thursday. This is always a very exciting evening, with lots to see from each of our amazing departments. Many of our existing students are involved in various ways, either as a guide, helping in departments or speaking in front of parents.

INSET day on Friday 29 September – no students in school.

Year 11 mock exams start on Thursday 12 October (there's only 2 whole school weeks left). Parents and carers of Year 11, please encourage your child to revise at home and use the materials we have provided to prepare for these exams.

Things for next week:

We all know the importance of reading on academic success. Please encourage your child to read at home, whether this be a novel, a magazine or interesting articles online. The wider the subject areas your child reads, the more their vocabulary will improve, and this in turn will lead to greater academic success. Discuss what your child has read recently and what they would like to read more about.

With best wishes,



Mrs. E Gordon
Co-Principals



Dr. C Neal

Attendance information from Ms Hillman, Vice Principal.

As we progress into our first term back welcoming students to a new school year, we have been informed by the Department for Education (DfE) about a clinical and public health perspective on mild illnesses and school attendance which we feel is important that we share with parents and carers alike.

There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

It is often appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. We would encourage you to view the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) if you are unsure or require further information.

In addition to respiratory illnesses, we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. We have a range of staff here trained in mental health first aid and school councillors available to supply a range of support.

Thank you as parents, carers and as a community, for your continued commitment to support the health, wellbeing and regular attendance of children and young people.

Calendar Dates

2023-24 Academic Year Dates

Term 1

Thursday 28th September – 5.30-8pm Open Evening
Friday 29th September – **INSET day (Students do not attend)**
Tuesday 3rd October – Year 11 SEN Information evening
Thursday 5th October – Drama Scholars evening
Tuesday 10th September – Duke of Edinburgh Information evening
Thursday 12th October – KS3 (Year 7-9) Meet the tutor evening
Thursday 12th – Sunday 15th October – Year 11 GCSE PE trip
Thursday 12th – Friday 20th October – Y11 Mock examinations
Monday 16th October 2023 – Influenza vaccine
Wednesday 18th October – Year 9 Future Ready
Friday 20th October – Last Day of Term 1

Term 2

Monday 30th October – First Day of Term 2
Friday 15th December 2023 – Last Day of Term 2

Term 3

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 – First Day of Term 3 – **INSET DAY (student do not attend)**
30th January 2024 – Y8 HPV vaccinations
Friday 9th February 2024 – Last Day of Term 3

Term 4

Monday 19th February 2024 – First Day of Term 4

Thursday 22nd February 2024 – Year 8-11 School Photos
Tuesday 12th March 2024 – Year 9 Tetanus injections
Thursday 28th March 2024 – Last Day of Term 4
Tuesday 19th March 2024 – Provisional Year 11 Year Group Photo
Wednesday 20th March 2024 – Provisional Year 11 Year Group Photo

Term 5

Monday 15th April 2024 – First Day of Term 5
Monday 6th May 2024 – Bank Holiday
Friday 24th May 2024 – Last Day of Term 5

Term 6

Monday 3rd June 2024 – First Day of Term 6
Friday 28th June 2024 – **INSET Day (Students do not attend)**
Tuesday 23rd July 2024 – Last Day of Term 6