



19th December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the second term and Christmas is around the corner.

Provisional data released from the Department of Education shows that we are above the National and Local Authority average for schools in terms of Progress 8 achievement in English and Maths, which is excellent news.

Over 200 Year 5 and Year 6 students from Lowbrook and Wessex joined us to watch *The Sound of Music*, with over 300 people watching the three evening performances. It was another great production by the Drama department, supported by the Music department and congratulations to all of the amazing and talented students who participated on stage, in the band and behind the scenes.

Mr McDonough has been out and about in the Community with the Cox Green Band; recent performances include Mencap, Cox Green Community Centre, Wessex Christmas Fayre and NRAS. The last performance of the term was the Carol Concert at St Marys Church in White Waltham which was another wonderful evening. Well done and thanks to all who participated.

The building work is still running to schedule, despite the high winds and snow. We now have concrete floors in place and it is becoming easier to visualise what the building is going to look like. There is a time lapse video on social media so you can see the progress being made.

The school has seen students shine yet again in a variety of activities and events. Budding sports journalists from Years 7 and 8 attended a football match at Maidenhead Magpies and produced some great work on social media for the club.

Ethan Quinn (Y8) was the star of the show in the West End performance of *A Christmas Carol* as Tiny Tim and Katie Crowhurst (Y9) excelled at the National Para-Swimming Disability Championships, coming away with 6 Gold medals and some new pb's. Abbie Jones, Luke-Lom Hynes, Olivia D'Aversa, Joshua Pope and Anu Hynes continue to perform well in Cross Country and Athletics for local clubs.

The Madrid trip for Year 10 students was an overwhelming success and several Year 10 students spent a week at Jamie's Farm experiencing life on a working farm. Mr Hillyard and Mr Foster were impressed with how students threw themselves into the activities offered with great enthusiasm, from shovelling manure in the Pig Pens to delivering new born lambs.

Year 11 students have now finished their Mock exams and can enjoy a well-deserved break. Students will be participating in a Sixth Form Taster Day on 20th December. For those students who have expressed an interest in vocational courses, a visit has been arranged to Bucks New Uni. Students who have expressed an interest in A level/ Btec offered here or within consortium, are enjoying Taster subject sessions at school. Please remember that the deadline for Year 11 to apply for the Sixth Form is 28th January and if you have any questions about completing the form, speak to Mrs McKay.

The *Safe Drive Stay Alive* production at the Wycombe Swan Theatre, was of great benefit to our Year 12 students who learned how to stay safe on the roads as new drivers. Year 13 have also finished their mocks and have been busy completing their UCAS applications. Elle Peters, Megan Bunce and Jennifer Knight have 5 offers and Jack Sharpling and Willow Swinfen-Wilkes have unconditional offers of acceptance. A great result!

The Sports Academy was delighted to host ex England footballer Joe Coles for a day's coaching and mentoring and lots of Chelsea fans in the school managed to take a selfie and chat with him.

We held two very successful "You're Hired" events for Year 11 and Year 13 students, huge thanks to the volunteers from a wide spectrum of Business and Industry who gave up their time to interview students and give them valuable interviewing experience.

We are extremely proud of the community minded students who have been involved with various charities this term, raising money for First Days, The Brett Foundation and the local Foodbank. Our final fundraising activity this term will be a Mufti Day on the 21st December, where students can pay £1 to wear their own clothes. We hope to see lots of Christmas jumpers! All money raised will go 'For Jimmy' the Jimmy Mizen Foundation who work with schools and young people educating them about knife crime and bullying.

Sadly we say goodbye to Miss White, Safe Manager for Year 10 who will be working with SEN students in a school in Slough. We wish her well in her new position.

If you have any matters that you wish to discuss with me, please do get in touch with my PA, Ms MacKenzie who will book you in on the next Headteacher's Surgery session on the 22nd January. The surgeries have been very successful so far and it has been lovely to meet so many of you.

Due to a staff meeting, students will have a **late start on Wednesday 3rd January**. All students must arrive for registration by **10.40am**. Arrangements have been made with coach companies to accommodate this. Details are on the school newsletter.

Thank you all for your continued support of the school.

Kind regards

Frances Walsh
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 21 st December:	School closes at 12.40 for the end of term.
Wednesday 3 rd January 2018:	Start of Term 3 – 10.40am start for students
Thursday 18 th January:	School closes at 12.15pm for all years except Year 8
Friday 19 th January:	School closed to students – Professional Development Day
Monday 22 nd January:	Headteacher's Surgery
Thursday 25 th January:	Year 8 Options Evening
Thursday 25 th -Monday 29 th January:	Year 11 Auschwitz trip
Monday 29 th January:	Year 8 Parents Evening
Wednesday 31 st January:	Year 9 Vaccinations
Monday 5 th February:	Year 10 Parents Evening
Friday 9 th February:	End of Term 3