



19 October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

As we draw to the end of the first term, I am writing to congratulate all of the students and staff on a very busy but positive start to the academic year.

It has been a pleasure to have met so many of you over the past few weeks. I would like to thank the parents who participated in the first Headteacher Surgery, which was a great success. We are taking appointments for the next session on Monday 4th December, so if you would like an appointment, please contact my PA Ellen MacKenzie who will book you a 15 minute slot. Thanks must also go to the parents who participated in the recent Uniform Forum which was also a very positive event.

We have been celebrating student success in assemblies this week, and many students have been awarded certificates recognising effort and commitment in their studies. Congratulations must go to Joseph Allen and Owen Smyth, both in 7.4 who are the first students to reach 200 positive points. I am sure there will be many more in the coming weeks!

Our Year 7 students have settled in extremely well and both Mrs Friend and Miss Allen were impressed by their behaviour and involvement in the activities at the recent trip to Longridge.

The Football teams in Years 7 and 10 are both through to the third round in the National Cup, and the after school Netball Club has been a huge success with record numbers of students attending from Years 7-11. Students from Years 7-10 put in a fantastic performance at the ESAA Cross Country Championships; Elliot Tomkins in Year 8 finished 6th and there were also super results from Brandon Campbell and Freddie Lewendon.

Thirty three Year 10 students are leaving for the Madrid trip on Friday morning, and I am sure that they will have a once in a lifetime experience. They all look incredibly smart in their travel kit and we thank Analytica Resources for the generous sponsorship which enabled us to provide polo tops and sweatshirts for everyone on the trip.

Year 11 Geography students participated in a field trip to the coast and now have everything they need to complete their GCSE fieldwork exam. Students developed skills in fieldwork techniques which will assist them in writing up their methodology and evaluation for the exam. They also took advantage of the amusement arcade, rock shop and various restaurants as part of their tourism bipolar surveys!

Our Sixth Form students enjoyed a day trip to Bournemouth and Mr Shields was the proud winner of the sandcastle competition! The Student Leadership team have been busy appointing prefects and organising the School Council. Year 13 students have started applying for their University places through UCAS and some have already had offers, which is fantastic news.

The Sports Academy students have been excelling on and off the pitch, and it was lovely to hear feedback recently about their "impeccable manners and extremely positive careers meetings". Well done boys!

Sixth Form applications will open after the Sixth Form Open Evening on the 16th November and we are looking forward to see all of our current Year 11 students and their parents/carers at the event. Course information is available on the school website.

PSHE days have been a huge success, with students learning about a range of health topics including Alcohol, Contraception and Teenage Pregnancy. We also had a very enjoyable Multi-Cultural Day which all students threw themselves in to with gusto which was great to see.

Open Evening and our three Open Morning events have had record attendance, testimony to our fantastic results and the incredible support offered by our staff allowing students to reach, and in many cases exceed their potential.

The building work is going well and we have seen huge progress following the recent demolition works. This has been sometimes noisy, but the students and staff have been very adaptable in coping with the disruption.

Wishing you all a relaxing two week break and I look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 6th November.

Thank you all for your continued support of the school.

Kind regards

Frances Walsh
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary:

Monday 23 rd October – Friday 3 rd November 2017	Half Term Break
Monday 6 th November	Start of Term 2 – Students return to school.
Thursday 16 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening for Current Year 11 students
Monday 20 th November	Year 7 Parents Evening
Friday 24 th November	Y11 You're Hired!
Thursday 30 th November	Y13 You're Hired!
	6 th Form Student Finance, Parents Talk – 6-7pm
Monday 4 th December	Headteacher Surgery (Appointment only)
Thursday 21 st December	Term 2 Ends at 12.40pm
Friday 22 nd December – Tuesday 2 nd January 2018	Christmas Holiday