



20th December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of the second term, I would like to thank all students, especially Year 11 who have worked hard for and engaged well with their exams over the past few weeks. Exam results will be announced for Year 11 in assembly at the beginning of next term, and the rest of the school will be given their results on their termly school reports.

We have had another extremely busy few weeks, the highlight of which was undoubtedly the Prime Minister joining us to officially open the new building. Several students were able to meet her, with some fantastic pictures appearing on the Maidenhead Advertiser website. Year 7 student Denny Disney was invited to shake her hand to prove that he had met her, and Mr Worrall shared his views on Brexit with the Prime Minister – not something you can do every day!

Our incredible Innovate kitchen team, led by Joao, prepared over one thousand Christmas Dinners over the past week, in a drive to provide a free festive lunch to each member of staff and student at the school. This was in celebration of providing over ten years of catering at Cox Green School. The team did a truly outstanding job of preparing, cooking and presenting a fantastic plate of food which was served by an amazing team of waiters and waitresses in the support team! It was a great atmosphere and much appreciated by everyone. The House singing competition which took place was won by Nightingale – the whole House engaged and the quality was great!

Once again, there have been a number of trips organised for our students with many more over the coming year. Our 6th Form have been visiting Wessex Primary School and Little Me Pre-School each week as part of their enrichment sessions and have had trips to Safe Drive, Stay Alive; Biology in Action; gallery visits and a Masterclass in Oxford. A number of Year 11 students visited Bucks New Uni and participated in Sports and OPD workshops, whilst Year 10 had visits to Jamie's Farm and a very successful Science in Action trip.

We hosted another very successful Firework event with Wessex Primary, and the school bands have continued to entertain the community at various events including MENCAP, NRAS and the Cox Green Luncheon Club. The Music department put on an incredible Winter Concert and a lovely Carol Concert this term, both of which were well attended and enjoyed by all. If your child would like to participate in any of the musical clubs, bands and events we run at the school, please do ask them to speak to Mr McDonough as new talent is always welcomed!

We were thrilled to win the Youth Voice, Youth Choice award of £1000, organised by Mrs Friend and Year 8 students, who submitted a bid to RBWM and won the community vote! The students involved attended the award ceremony last week and gave a great acceptance speech! This money will go towards new laptops for the Technology department.

Year 11 participated in the Sixth Form taster day last week, and I am sure that many students have been inspired to take the new BTEC Health and Social care following Mrs Haigh's presentation of her experience of being a midwife. We had a huge turnout for the 6th Form Open Evening, and we are very excited at the new courses we will have on offer, including new Sports Academy pathways. Open Trials will be taking place for Sports Academy on Saturday 22nd December at Cox Green. Application forms for 6th Form are available to download from the website, or from Reception.

Many of our Year 13 students have already secured offers from Universities for next year, and several have taken the first steps on the apprenticeship pathway in local industry. A number of our Sports Academy are well on the way to securing overseas scholarships with many looking at coaching and work based apprenticeships.

Our annual "You're Hired" event for Year 11 takes place on January 9th and we are delighted to have secured several high calibre interviewers to assist our students with their interviews. Careers interviews for Year 8 will take place with Mrs McKay in January when they will begin their journey to select their options. We are excited that a number of guest speakers will be on site to share their expertise with our students at the Insight Assembly and students will also be involved with a Health Reach workshop run by Reading University and the NHS.

Sporting successes have continued throughout the term; Megan Harper has made it into the ESFA U15 England Squad, Luke Hynes has qualified for the National Cross Country event in March following his win last weekend at the Berkshire trials, and Malaika Meena played against The Netherlands as part of the England Women's U16 football team earlier this month.

Ethan Quinn has achieved further acting success, currently appearing in "A Christmas Story" in the West End and is off to Atlanta in January with The British Theatre Academy performing in Oliver. Please do keep us posted with good news and successes that are achieved out of school as we do like to share these on our social media sites!

Please do remind your children of the importance of road safety if they are walking or cycling to school. There have been a number of reports from concerned residents that students have been cycling dangerously and darting across the road instead of using the new pedestrian crossing. At peak times, there are very heavy volumes of traffic which can make it difficult for drivers to see students crossing when they are obscured by parked cars. I would also repeat the request to ensure that you are parking respectfully and safely when you are collecting and dropping students to school.

In addition, please do ensure your child is dressed correctly for school. A growing number of students are arriving at school wearing incorrect items of clothing and footwear. Dealing with these issues means that students are sanctioned and begin the day with a negative interaction which often impacts on behaviour for the rest of the day.

Sadly, we say goodbye to a number of teachers this term; Mr Bailey-Young, Mrs Masih who are both moving to pastures new, and Ms Rapsey who will be starting her maternity leave. We wish them all the best!

I trust you will all enjoy your Christmas and look forward to see our students refreshed and ready for Term 3 on 7th January.

Yours sincerely

Frances Walsh
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

Monday 7 th January	Start of Term 3.
Thursday 17 th January	Year 9 Parent's Evening
Monday 28 th January	Headteacher's Surgery
Thursday 31 st January	Year 8 Parent's Evening
13 th – 15 th February	School Musical Performance
Friday 15 th February	End of Term – School finishes normal time.