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7th October 2022

Hello,

Yesterday's Sponsored Walk was a very enjoyable end of term activity and I am pleased that we have managed to reintroduce something else paused due to the pandemic. Reports from the community are that the pupils' behaviour was excellent and I am delighted that this event has showcased what great young people we have in this school. Thanks for your support.

I would also like to thank you for your immediate response to my letter about the end of day car park situation which has now been resolved.

One of the most pleasing things about the end of COVID mitigations in schools has been breathing life into our extra-curricular programme. If you haven't already seen it on the website- please open the other attachment in the email you received this in to see what lunchtime and after school activities are available. New members are still welcome.

In August we started to make use of 7 additional modular rooms, new facilities in Technical and Additional Support for Learning as well as new and refurbished changing rooms in PE. These have been well received by staff and by pupils and have made a difference to the atmosphere in these departments. Attention will now turn to the installation of an Astroturf next year and to a public meeting about plans for Phase 1 of the new build for the school which will take place very early in the new term.

In the last two weeks school dress code has been particularly good and we hope that this will be sustained in the new term. Checks, house points and discussions with SMT will continue.

Alongside Clubs, Christmas Dances, Drama and Art trips and sporting competitions we are also trying to reintroduce some of the expectations and standards that existed before COVID. Of particular importance to us is attendance and punctuality- as basic life skills, as expectations for the workplace but first and foremost because learning is impacted when pupils miss the start of a lesson and the explanations/recap of previous learning. We would like every pupil in Registration when the second bell rings at 8.40, we would like every pupil in class after lunch when the second bell rings at 2.00 and we would like pupils to move from class to class without a small social gathering. It would be fair to say that not all pupils share our enthusiasm and so it is likely that for a few weeks there will be more communication home about lateness and attendance as pupils realise what our expectations are. We have only been operating our refined system for one week and already we are seeing signs that pupils are getting the message so please bear with us in the early weeks of next term as this expectation beds in. If you have any concerns or queries about the communication please do get in touch with the school.

Finally, I thought it might be helpful to include the main dates for next term:

9th November **S1 Parents' Evening**- in school
29th November **S4-6 reports issued.**
30th November- **S4 Parents' Evening**- virtual
1st December- **Christmas concert** (provisional)
7th December **S5/6 Parents' Evening**-in school
14th December- **S3/4 Christmas dance**
19th December- **S1/2 Christmas dance**
20th December- **S2 Reports issued**
21st December- **S5/6 Christmas dance**

With regards to the Parents Evenings, the process for booking for in school and online parents' evenings will be through the same process and details will be emailed out on the Monday of the week preceding each Parents' Evening.

Best wishes,



Dr J Vance
Rector