



10th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the October half-term break, I wanted to write and update you on several matters. We are still awaiting confirmed national Year 11 data from the summer exams however, when this is released, it is likely to confirm that we are now one of the most improved secondary schools in the country. This is a wonderful reflection of our school community and something students were really proud of when the information has been shared with them in assemblies over the past half-term.

### **October Half-Term**

Students will finish Term One on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October are both INSET days and students will therefore not be in school. All students return to school on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at the normal time. Those students in receipt of free school meals should expect to receive their free school meal voucher as usual.

### **Year 11 Mock Examinations**

Year 11 will be undertaking their mock examinations next week and will complete exams from Monday to Thursday. These exams will be important for identifying areas of strength and also aspects of the courses that students will need to focus on in the coming weeks. The exams also allow staff to form predicted grades for each student, which are sometimes required later in the year for applications to college, apprenticeships and sixth forms. As such, please could I ask that parents/carers really emphasise with their young people the importance of these exams and ensure that they reach school on time to start each exam. Thank you for your support with this message.

### **Year 11 Information Evening**

This evening, we will be holding a virtual information evening for parents/carers of Year 11 students. This evening will be recorded to allow those parents/carers who are unable to attend a chance to view the session later. The recorded version will be circulated via Epraise by the end of this week.

### **Uniform**

Thank you to all parents and carers for their support of our uniform arrangements in school. Despite our policy now being in place and unchanged for the past three years, I think this half-term has been the best for standards around student uniform. In a recent meeting with students as part of our student voice work in school, they expressed their agreement with our uniform expectations in ensuring equality for all students and removing the issue of students wearing expensive items to school to the detriment of other students.

### **Punctuality**

It has been immensely impressive to observe the improvement in student punctuality this half-term. We have made attending school and lessons on time a real focus and the response from students has been excellent. The number of students late to school or lessons has dropped by nearly half in the past seven weeks and students are now accessing more learning as a result. I would like to thank our students for all working hard to make attending lessons on time a real priority.

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I hope that you and your family have an enjoyable half-term break and look forward to seeing your child when we return on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Yours faithfully

Guy Swallow  
Headteacher