



10th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been lovely welcoming our students back after the October half-term break; they have returned to school well and continued to engage positively with our new processes around punctuality. I now wanted to take this opportunity to update you on a few events taking place in the coming weeks.

Children In Need

As you may be aware, Children in Need will this year take place on Friday 17th November. To raise money for this deserving charity, we will be holding a non-uniform day in school. Students may come into school on this day wearing non-uniform in exchange for a £1 donation to Children In Need.

Salvation Army Christmas Shoeboxes

In the coming weeks, we will be conducting our usual work around the Salvation Army Shoebox Appeal. This has been a long tradition at Whitstone School and something that really impacts upon our wider community. We would really appreciate, those who are able, bringing in an item to add to their Aspire box. Items need to be checked for any 'use by' dates please to ensure they are suitable for the Christmas period. Items may also include toiletries and new, unopened gifts/ toys. Thank you in advance for your support with this annual fundraising initiative.

School Progress

I referred in my letter before the half-term break that our Year 11 academic outcomes in the summer were likely to place us as one of the most improved schools in the Somerset. The national data has now been released and has confirmed that we are the second most improved mainstream secondary school in the whole of Somerset, with the equivalent of every single student making nearly 2/3's of a grade more progress in every single subject in the summer of 2023. This quite amazing statistic will place us as one of the most rapidly progressing schools in the South-West and is something our staff and students are rightly proud of. This improvement in academic outcomes sits alongside all our other areas of progress and is part of the reason behind our rapid growth in student numbers, which has seen us rise from 495 students in 2019 to 605 currently. Thank you to you all for the continued support and positivity; it is appreciated.

There are several upcoming events taking place in the coming weeks, which I will share with you shortly. I very much look forward to seeing many of you at these events and celebrating the success of our young people.

Yours faithfully,

Guy Swallow
Headteacher