

CLO/jr
July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Message from Mrs Oakley

The end of term is fast approaching and I cannot believe how time has flown this year. Once more our students have shown commitment, energy, enthusiasm and a positive attitude to their learning; they embrace all the opportunities afforded to them. The school site has been a hive of activity, with smiling, eager faces enjoying all our summer activities offered including Paultons Park and Sports day to name but a few! This is obviously supported by a fabulous team of staff who care passionately about what they do for our students.

A warm welcome to our new Year 7 parents who for the first time have been included in these communications so that they can see the plans for the start of the academic year as well as join our school community.

When we look back on this year we can see so many achievements from individual to team successes, major productions as well as concerts, dance showcases, day trips, experiences to higher education, visitors in lessons and MFL plays within school. All of this adds to the rich experiences we hope all students benefit from as they journey through the school.

On top of this, our students have been recognised for their energy, talent and hard work across the year with over 236,568 positive e-refs and that is not counting all the postcards that arrive on the door mat! This is such an amazing achievement!

Getting ready for September

It is very important that we work together and have your full support to ensure that our children have the right attitude for learning, they are treating each other with care and respect and that they are keeping themselves safe online by making good decisions to stay away from damaging online influences. Please help your son or daughter to get off to a really successful start in September by making sure that they have:

- the basic school equipment – a sensible school bag and pen, pencil, ruler, calculator
- correct school uniform
- correct PE/Dance kit

E-Safety

As we know when children have free time they often spend it on-line especially when on holiday. To help protect your child from inappropriate online influences over the summer and help them to

be in the best frame of mind to learn when back at school, we know that many parents find the following very helpful:

- Limit online time to sensible amounts; only allow age appropriate APPs
- Help ensure a good night's sleep by preventing your child having access to their phone overnight;
- Install age appropriate settings on internet use. The following links provides advice on setting parental controls:
 - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>
 - <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>.

End of Term Arrangements

Term ends on Friday 21st July at 12.30pm.

Start of Term Arrangements 2023-24:

For all:

Friday 1st September - CPD day

Thursday 7th September - whole school in school.

Year 7:

Monday 4th September – Year 7 programme

Tuesday 5th September - Year 7 Programme

Wednesday 6th September - Year 7 Programme

Years 8-10

Tuesday 5th September and Wednesday 6th September - 'Meeting Me' conversations between tutor and tutees.

This was highly successful last year and students told us that they wanted to do this again. Some of you told us that this was difficult to attend.

*Improvements from last year: **All** students expected to meet their tutor at their identified time. If parents can join either face to face or remotely that is an added bonus.*

Year 11

The Year Group will be divided into two groups and complete a 'Meeting Me' conversation with their tutor on one day and on the other day they will be in school all day.

Staff In-Service Training Days 2023-24

Students will not be in school on the following INSET Days:

Friday 1st September

Friday 13th October

Friday 24th November

Monday 19th February

Monday 24th June

Have the most wonderful summer. As Van Morrison says, 'Smell the sea and feel the sky. Let your soul and spirit fly.' Sounds perfect!

With best wishes

Mrs C Oakley
Headteacher

