



January 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome Back!

Firstly, I must wish all families a belated Happy New Year (officially the last time of saying this) and I sincerely hope that you had a great Christmas break.

Naturally, the New Year provides an opportunity for reflection and for fresh thinking about new horizons; it was a real privilege to lead Expectation Assemblies for students in their Year groups last week.

Standards and Expectations

I wanted to start my letter by sharing some of the key messages I have shared with our students. Assemblies last week provided an opportunity for celebrating our progress, discussing our collective ambition and reinforcing our key principles and school values; Being Kind and Respectful, Working Hard, Persevering and Taking Personal Responsibilities. I hope that every student can articulate their own understanding of these values and take pride in making sure they are tangible in our school. I have also outlined the importance of approaching the Spring term with determination and energy, being brave enough to think big and ensuring our approaches to learning are adhered to exceptionally well.

An Excellent Start to 2024

I have to say that I have been struck by how punctual, well presented, and attentive our students have been since our return, as ever, I must thank all parents and carers for equipping them so well so that they are ready to learn when they get to school.

Extra-Curricular

We would like our students to be able to open as many doors as possible in the future and securing excellent outcomes and qualifications forms just one part of that picture. We encourage students to engage in the many fantastic opportunities ahead during the Spring term and that they should look to put themselves forward in whatever they choose to do, including participation in enrichment activities and in student leadership opportunities.

Assemblies this week have launched a process for our young people to engage in Student Leadership roles and Diversity Ambassador positions; I look forward to reading those applications and reinforcing the belief that we have many fantastic leaders within our school community and that every one of our students can contribute positively.

All extra-curricular clubs available can be viewed on Beehive, which will detail the days and times each one will be running. Students need to sign up on Beehive to ensure they secure a place. Please see the end of this letter for details on additional/new Extra-Curricular opportunities this term.

Breakfast club continues to run every morning from 8.15am, and Twilight club runs every afternoon until 3.45pm. Students can use this time to complete homework, meet with friends or speak to the pastoral team who will be on hand to supervise the students - these opportunities do not require a sign up.

Learning Support Club

A reminder of recent communication, the Learning Support Club will run from 3:15-4:15pm in the SEND Base (RE26) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. This academic year, the sessions will be overseen by teaching staff from the Special Educational Needs (SEN) department. It will offer students an opportunity to get support with completing homework, or to get additional help with content taught in lessons that they feel they need to revisit.

This is an open session, so students may attend only for as long as they feel necessary to complete their homework, however, the session will be staffed until 4:00pm.

Post-16 Applications

A reminder to all Year 11 students, Post-16 applications close on Wednesday 31st January; we look forward to building on our success by steering such a great group of young adults through their options process and onto a successful next step <http://www.ps16.co.uk/>

Additional Extra Curricular Clubs this term include:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch		LGBTQ Pride Well-Being Club	Chess / Games Club Medical Society		Well-being club
After School	Book Club	Homework Club Lionheart Radio & PDC Podcast Rugby	Dungeons & Dragons	Chess / Games club Boxfit Girls Football Badminton	Basketball

Yours faithfully



Mr A Grainge
Associate Principal