



9th February 2024

Dear Parents/carers

Without wanting to put a dampener at the end of term, Term 3 is my least favourite Term of the year – there's the issue of coming back from the Christmas break, it is dark, the term is much shorter than the previous two terms with still the amount of 'stuff' to fit in and it is traditionally the term with notable levels of student and staff absence. Staff absence has certainly been significant this week – with 18 staff, on certain days, unable to be in school. I would like to thank the staff that remained on site for their willingness to help out and cover classes – we could not have operated this week without their selflessness. In addition, thank you to the parents and students in years 10, 12 and 13 who had their on-site learning altered this week so that we could operate safely. I understand that some parents and students may have found this situation frustrating but asking any year group to work at home is always going to be the last resort and the decision was based on the ability to supervise students in class and at social times with the most appropriate ratio levels for safety reasons. I look forward to an uninterrupted term 4 after the break.

Year 11 Photo

The rearranged year group photo for Year 11 will now take place on Monday 26th February.

Behaviour in the Community

This week we have been contacted by a member of the public concerned about the unruly, intimidating behaviour of some students, in uniform, in the precinct. If we are presented with evidence of negative student behaviour outside of school, especially if wearing uniform, we are bound to act and employ appropriate sanctions. We often talk to students in assemblies and tutor time about how their actions can be perceived, how to be a good citizen and how to represent the best version of themselves. It was therefore heart-warming to hear from the CEO of another local Trust who witnessed the positive and impressive manner of our students whilst shopping in Touts and took the time to write in to request the behaviour was celebrated and recognised which we are more than happy to do.

Finally...as you may remember from a few weekly letters ago Miss Johnson, one of the Learning Support Team, is flying out to Ghana today to help build a children's centre. Miss Johnson has been overwhelmed with the donations from the school community that she has been able to take to help support the Christmas party initiative the centre has. She has asked me to pass on her thanks to all involved – it will make a huge difference. If you would like to find out more about the project you can by looking here

<https://www.kokrobitechilterncentre.org>

Wishing you all the best for a relaxing break, take care and be kind

Mrs D Elliott
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