



28th March 2025

Dear Parents/carers

I hope parents found discussions at last night's Year 8 Subject Evening productive. As ever, although these annual events are calendared we do encourage open dialogue between home and school throughout the year. Please do get in touch as and when you feel there is a need.

Next week sees us reach the final week of term 4, but that does not mean the term is slowing down, as you can see from the details below.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Unicorn Charity Week

Unicorn have their Charity Week next week raising money for Cancer Research UK, The DEN at Nailsea School and Wellspring counselling. They have the Director of Wellspring coming in to raise awareness and shake a bucket on Tuesday and Friday at some of our events and to raise the profile of their new, yet to be fully funded, Listening service. All week Unicorn students, and any willing staff, will be cycling 1000 miles, taking turns to complete the journey. Amongst other things they also have hamper raffles, sponge the teacher, a disco, Kahoot quizzes and a talent show. It would be great to see students bringing along some change and taking part in the activities. As part of the week Friday 4th April will be a nonuniform day with suggested donations of £1.

Year 9 Event Guided Choices – 3rd April

Parents of students in year 9 should have received a letter from Ms Dee regarding the start of students choosing their GCSE courses. As a summary the timeline is as follows:

- Tuesday 1st April 8.30am Guided Choices Launch Assembly in school for students.
- Thursday 3rd April 5pm – 7pm Y9 Guided Choices Evening in school where students and parents are invited to have face to face discussions about courses on offer.
- Friday 25th April 3pm Deadline for Guided Choices Application Forms

The Guided Choices Evening (3rd April) will give students and parents the opportunity to discuss the different subjects on offer with subject teachers. This will take place in school, face to face, and also features a presentation to parents about how the Guided Choices process works and what subjects the students can select. There is no need to book a place on the Guided Choices Evening and students and parents are free to drop in as they wish. There are two presentations in the Auditorium starting at 5.30pm for Dragon and Griffin Houses and 6.30pm for Phoenix and Unicorn Houses.

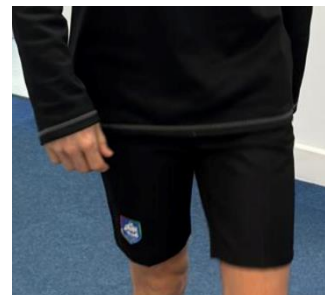


Summer Uniform options

With temperatures increasing as we move into terms 5 and 6, as a school we have responded to student feedback and are introducing the option of tailored shorts being part of the school uniform. These can be worn instead of black trousers. All other parts of the uniform will remain the same.

The shorts were shown to Student Council on Wednesday this week and were received very positively. Student feedback included:

- Students welcoming the idea that they have been heard and action taken.
- They were positive on the style and length of the shorts.
- Students were happy that this would replace the wearing of PE kit on hot days and agreed this current situation was not that hygienic.
- Students felt it would be a popular option.



Only the school embroidered shorts can be worn as part of the uniform. These will be available from School Togs from mid April at a cost of £18. [School Togs](#)

End of term

As a reminder Term 4 finishes at 3pm on Friday 4th April. Students will return from the Easter break on Tuesday 22nd April. This will be a week 2.

Finally... I know I referenced a tv programme in my letter last week but having watched 'Adolescence' since the last time of writing there was no way I could not mention it this week. Brilliantly acted, particularly by Stephen Graham (Eddie, the dad) and Owen Cooper, his son (Jamie), the series is hard hitting and highlights both the challenges facing adolescents and the ever-growing divide between what most adults *believe* children know and do, and what children *actually* know and do. There have been many articles written about the impact of the programme and one that is particularly pertinent for parents and teachers can be found here:

[Netflix's Adolescence: What can we as parents and educators learn from the series and how do we better support our young people? by Alicia Drummond, Therapist and Founder of The Wellbeing Hub - Teen Tips](#)

Contrary to the content of the last two letters, please be assured I don't just sit at home and watch television every weekend! Whatever you are up to in yours – enjoy!



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

