



21st March 2025

Dear Parents/carers

Spring seems to have sprung over the last couple of days – even though this was at the end of the week where I was still scraping ice from my car windscreen on Monday morning. Given the change in the weather the school field has now been opened to students at break and lunch times. We thoroughly recommend students get some fresh air during the school day where possible and it is good to see students engaged in sporting activities at these social times. As a reminder, given our drive on punctuality, if students have been playing sport at lunchtime they should include time to refill any water bottles before they attend lessons at 2pm. This enables all the learning time to be maximised and lessons not to be disrupted. Thank you for your support.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Gate Closure at the end of the day

As a reminder, for safety reasons, the main gates are closed between 2:50pm and 3:10pm. If your child has an appointment after school, can I please ask that parents have collected their child before the gates close at 2:50pm. Thanks for your understanding.

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.

Leaving Lessons

Each term, our SEN team and Pastoral review the provisions students access to support them at school. These are often put in place to support students when they are settling into the school. This term there will be some significant changes to the 'Leave Lesson early' and WRAP card provisions. It is important that we regularly review these in order to ensure they are benefiting students in ways we intend. Within this review process, both pastoral leads and the SEN team look at how regularly the provisions are being used, as well as whether they feel that the student is now in a better position to



manage without it. As parents will know staff can log when students leave lessons during the day using a Classcharts button. To clarify, some students are able to leave lessons early. These students have this option because they either have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or they have a medical condition. All other students will remain in class to be dismissed at the end of the lesson. We have also reviewed the number of students that have WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) cards and a new list has been shared with staff ahead of term 5. Students should confirm with their tutor if they still have a valid WRAP card during tutor time next week.

Spring Reward Event

We are excited to announce that 400 students from the lower school have been invited to attend our Spring Reward Event. There will be two separate events: one for Year 7 & 8 students and another for Year 9, 10, & 11 students. These will take place on separate days during Period 5 during the last week of Term 4, and the specific dates will be shared in the invitation letter you will receive via a Class Charts announcement.

Please check the letter on Class Charts for further details and follow the link provided to complete the Microsoft Form by Thursday 27th March. It is essential that the form is completed by this date, as students will not be allowed to attend the event without it. This is due to the need for us to sort and arrange registers ahead of the event for safeguarding purposes.

We look forward to celebrating the hard work and commitment of our students!

Finally ... if you haven't seen it yet, I would thoroughly recommend watching Sir Gareth Southgate's Richard Dimbleby Lecture that can be accessed through BBC iPlayer. [The Richard Dimbleby Lecture - Sir Gareth Southgate - BBC iPlayer](#)

Entitled 'The Beautiful Game: Building Belief and Resilience in a Younger Generation' it really is a 'must watch' for both parents and those in education. Inevitably Southgate talks about his own experience of missing that Euro '96 penalty but goes on to explain how he did not let that define him. He talked particularly about young men now turning more for direction on-line, finding replacements to traditional role models, with these on-line influencers not necessarily having the young people's best interests at heart. Schools, as we try to do every day, need to keep doing more to encourage young people to make the right choices and not to fear failure. As he states

*'If I've learned anything from my life in football, it's that success is much more than the final score.
True success is how you respond in the hardest of moments'*

Have a lovely weekend



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

