

16th September 2022

Dear Parents/carers

As you are aware school will be closed on Monday 19th September given the designation of a Bank Holiday for Queen Elizabeth II's funeral. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday at 8:40am. This will be a week one. For those families that would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the Queen and her life the Tithe Barn is a place that floral tributes can be placed, as well as signing a Book of Condolence.

I would also like to draw advanced attention to the changes to the school day in the week of our Open Evening where we welcome prospective new students onto site. On Thursday 29th September school will finish at 2pm to provide time for staff to set up for the event. On Friday 30th September, to acknowledge the late evening experienced by staff and student volunteers the school day will begin at 9:40. Students should attend tutor time to be registered as normal. School transport have been informed of the changes. If, for any reason, there is an issue with your child leaving earlier or arriving later please contact the relevant Head of House.

Other messages for this week are outlined below:

6th Form successful start

It has been a real pleasure to see an increased number of year 12 students join us in the 6th form this term, including the largest number of external students from other centres. As you may have seen on social media the Common Room and 6th form area has had a face lift over the summer break and the students have been very positive about the results.

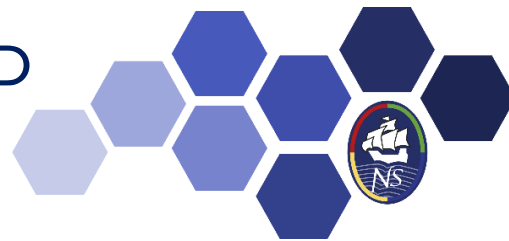
I know that Mr Truan, Mrs Macleod and Mrs Jones were delighted to welcome parents along for the Parent Information Evenings this week for both years 12 and 13. Many thanks to those parents that attended and we hope you found the information shared useful in understanding the next stage of your child's educational journey.

Yr 11 Preparing for Success

With year 11 now well and truly underway I know that teachers and classes are already looking ahead to the mock exam window. As part of the build up to these year 11 parents should have received notification of our 'Prep for Success' evening that is being held on Thursday 22nd September. The evening will enable Mr Jones, to explain the ways parents can be supported to support their child at this time. We look forward to seeing parents at the event.

Year 7 and 8 outside area

As students will know the area at the front of the school is reserved for year 7 and 8 to use at social time. In the last week there have been some incidents of some 'rough play' that could quite easily have resulted in injury. Students have been told very clearly that any inappropriate behaviour at social times can result in those times becoming supervised. I would ask for the support of year 7 and 8 parents to discuss this with their child as appropriate at home so that everyone can both enjoy social time but also be free of injury.



School Photos

Students in years 7, 9 and 11 will be allocated a time on Thursday 22nd September to update their school photos. Details of how to purchase these photos will be shared next week. Students are reminded that school jumpers are required for the photos.

Parent View

It is important, however, that we collect all parents' views and we would encourage you to complete the Parent View survey, which is independent of us, but it allows us to celebrate what we do well as well as what we should focus on to improve even more. Please click the link to complete the survey, <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views/survey/214155> Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to complete the survey.

Finally....it will have been no surprise to hear that my assemblies this week have focused on the life and service of Queen Elizabeth II. Speaking to students I emphasised some words from one of her many Christmas broadcasts:

*'It's worth remembering that it is often small steps, not giant leaps,
that bring about the most lasting change'*

The start of a new school year is an exciting time where anything is possible for everyone. The key is being prepared to take those small steps and make whatever 'it' is happen. I look forward in the coming weeks and months to report back on some of the amazing achievements of our staff and students who will do just that.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher