

21st April 2023

Dear Parents/carers

I trust you all had a chance for some relaxation over the Easter break, even if the weather was not as we would have all wanted. The Easter break is my favourite of the year; a good two weeks of proper recharging and relaxation without the additional pressures of the Christmas festivities. I know that many families would have had students involved in revision, preparing for the exams that are now only 4 weeks away. This focus will eventually reap rewards, not only with the final outcomes in August but students being able to enjoy their longest summer holiday ever when all exams are concluded in late June. As a reminder Wednesday 28th June is the national exam contingency date and all students need to be available, if required, on this day.

Other messages for the week can be read below:

Further possible industrial action

As you may have heard, following discussions over the break two further days of industrial action have been mentioned as taking place on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May.

On 27th April school will be closed to students in year 7, 8, 9 and most of years 10 and 12. The National Education Union has agreed that staff can come onto site to continue to teach students that have examinations this summer. The final plans for the day will be shared with parents on Monday once I have a clear picture of which staff will be coming into school.

As before, any student that has an EHCP and/or is classed as vulnerable can also attend school on that day. The form for registering a place in this case can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/AYUw1sAsbm> The form will close at 3pm on Tuesday 25th April.

Year 11 Timetable changes

Year 11 students are now very much in the home straight when it comes to exam preparation. In recognition of this there will be some amendments to timetable arrangements. From the start of term 5 students will have the option to continue to take part in core PE or to bring revision and complete this in a classroom supervised by PE staff. Students should come prepared with revision materials for these sessions.

Exams begin in the week commencing 15th May and in order to provide some tailored preparation ahead of these times, from that date, the year group will adhere to an amended timetable. For example on Monday 15th May, ahead of the Science exam on Tuesday 16th May all students in year 11 will attend a Science revision session during periods 3 and 4 and not attend their normal lessons. All details of the timetable can be found with Heads of Faculty and year 11 tutors. This process has been viewed as really valuable by students in the past and I hope these final opportunities for revision and consolidation are taken up by the students.

Year 13 students and exams

Year 13 students are now also looking towards the final exams. Mr Truan, Assistant Head – Head of 6th form, has contacted teaching staff regarding expectations of attending lessons after Friday 12th May.

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Teaching staff have made judgements noting if students need to continue to attend lessons prior to their final exams. Again, I would urge students to take these opportunities ahead of their exam dates.

Jewellery in PE lessons

It has been disappointing to see a small minority of students return from the Easter break with facial piercings. Our expectations are very clear that although a small amount of jewellery can be worn in school, facial piercings are not permitted and all jewellery needs to be removed for PE lessons. As you can understand this policy is in place for the safety of students within the class given the physical nature of the activities and close contact involved in these lessons. Thank you, in advance, for adhering to the expectation that any new piercing is made during the early part of the summer break, so that the healing process can be completed and the piercing removed ahead of lessons in September.

Richard Durban's Charity – are you eligible?

Richard Durban's Charity was set up in 1729 to support young people from the Yatton, Kingston Seymour and Claverham areas in their educational endeavours. The charity disperses grants to qualified applicants each summer to provide financial support for young people engaged in further education, higher education or trade training. Applications are open from 1st April to 30th June. Further details about applying can be found here: <http://www.durbantrust.com>

Student use of social media

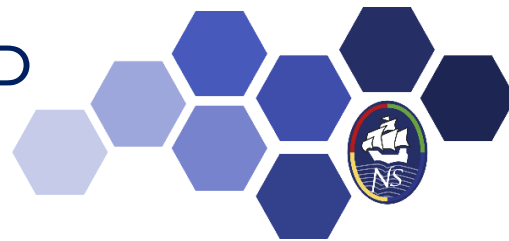
A number of hours have been spent this week following up incidents of students misusing social media over the Easter holiday. This misuse has ranged from students making inappropriate comments on group chats that are hurtful to others, to fake accounts being set up in the names of members of staff, allegedly by members of the school community. When such incidents occur the school recommendation is that the police are contacted and the incident is logged with them.

As you will appreciate all such incidents are both unacceptable and upsetting for those involved. I would urge regular checks to be made relating to online use of social media platforms, noting the recommended age restrictions for each one, as shown here.

In addition, it is important to note that any student that is seen to be making derogatory comments about staff online, or following an account that is disparaging towards any member of the school will be sanctioned. Thanks, in advance, for working together with the school on this matter.



ASPIRE | BELIEVE | SUCCEED



Finally.... today 108 year 9 students (56% of the year group) are currently completing their practice Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Interest in the Award Scheme has grown significantly over recent years and I know the students involved have found the experience incredibly rewarding. Many thanks to Mrs Wells and the other staff that have volunteered their time to support the students in these endeavours. Here's hoping the rain stays away!

Take care and Be Kind

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'D Elliott'.

Mrs Dee Elliott

Head teacher



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