

Headteacher's Update – Friday 9th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Reflection

Our prayer theme for next week is:

Unconditional love

In the midst of a chaotic world, God's love breaks through, transcending barriers and biases. In this age of division, God's love unites us, reminding us of our shared humanity and inherent worth. It calls us to extend grace, embrace diversity, and work for justice, echoing the teachings of Christ. In God's unconditional love, we find hope, redemption, and the power to transform our lives and communities. This week may we commit ourselves to loving others, without expectations or demands, mirroring the love of God.

Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Lily Anderson, Oscar Cartwright, Adam Fornalik, Anna Whipp (Year 7): Fantastic commitment to learning in R.E.

Jack Brown, Aaron Gerrard, Olivia Myerscough, Lucas Robertson, Emmie Wilkinson (Year 8): Excellence in French

Hettie Bridgeman, Katie Heath (Year 7), Arthur Allerton, Alice Harrington, Evie King (Year 8), Edie Bridgeman, James Livesey (Year 9), Ethan Scot (Year 10): Contribution to Catholic School Life

Boris Andjelic (Year 10): Outstanding effort in Religious Education

Michele Chiaramonte (Year 10): Academic Success in RE

Attendance Update

Please see below our whole-school attendance level for the current week and the academic year overall, which you can compare to the attendance level of your child in Class Charts.

Whole-school attendance this week: 91%

Whole-school attendance this year: 93%

Prefect Recruitment 2023/24

This morning I spoke to all Year 10 pupils in a special assembly to launch the process to recruit our Prefects, Senior Prefects and the Head Boy/Girl and their deputies for the 2023/24 academic year. These will be important and highly valued roles, both in improving the school and ensuring its smooth and successful operation over the next 12 months.

Further details regarding Prefect responsibilities and the application process have been made available to Year 10 pupils and their parents/carers on Firefly. I wish all candidates every success with their applications.

Year 11 update

We have reached the end of the third week of GCSE exams, with just a week and a half to go! Well done to the many pupils who attended the revision classes over half-term, and thank you to the staff who volunteered their time to lead the sessions.

The last full week of exams begins on Monday morning with English Language for all pupils, followed by GCSE Business Studies in the afternoon and Chemistry revision for all other pupils.

'Vaping'

I have written to you previously regarding my concerns about the use of e-cigarettes among some of our pupils. **It is illegal in the UK to sell 'vapes' to anyone under the age of 18, or for an adult to purchase/supply one for them.** Like all schools, we have sometimes had to deal with the problem of pupil possession or use of 'vapes' in school or in the community, I have been surprised and disappointed that on occasions this is happening with the knowledge or even the support of parents and carers.

I would like to draw your attention to two recent BBC News articles, which highlight the very worrying health risks of 'vaping' for children and young people.

[BBC News: "High lead and nickel found in illegal vapes"](#)
[BBC News: "Ban disposable vapes to protect children – doctors"](#)

Whilst there is clearly a place for adults to use e-cigarettes as an alternative to tobacco, both UK law and health advice is clear – **children and young people under the age of 18 should not be 'vaping' under any circumstances.**

Ski Trip 2024

Thank you to the considerable number of parents/carers who registered their child's interest in the Ski Trip 2024. A further letter will be issued to parents/carers who applied for a place for their child on Monday.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher