

Dear Parents/Carers

April 2019

[I write to you as yet another term is racing to a close – where does the time go!?](#)

As exam season moves closer and closer (students begin their GCSE's and 'A' Levels on Monday 13th May) our Year 11 and 13 students are finding their highest gears and working hard towards their final exams. Staff have been thorough in their preparation of the students and advised them on the best approach to their revision. Whilst we continue to support all of our students, responsibility for individual revision programmes now falls to each student. These should be running at full pace by this stage with several hours of work being done each evening. The Easter holidays present an ideal opportunity to increase this work and boost confidence in readiness for the third week of next term (only 4 weeks away!). Year 11 students will continue to attend school on a full time basis until the end of Friday 24th May. Lessons will run as normal during this time which students will attend unless they have an exam to take. From Monday 3rd June Year 11 students will be on study leave and will only be expected to attend lessons in subjects which they have yet to complete along with any further exams that they are scheduled to sit. Year 13 begin their study leave at the end of the day on Friday 17th May.

Our Year 11 leavers assembly will be held on Friday 21st June beginning at 10am. Year 11 parents will receive further information about this event in the next couple of weeks. Year 13 leavers assembly is on Thursday 16th May at 4pm.

The School Day

[Over the first few weeks of the summer term, as promised, I will be reviewing the 'new school day' which will have been running for two terms by that stage.](#)

I am keen to hear from parents/carers on how/if we can further improve the school day. The general impression that I get when talking to the students is that they much prefer the 4:1 lesson arrangement and feel that the day passes more quickly. They also tell me they are less bored at lunchtime as it is much shorter. Being on duty every lunchtime I can confidently report that our canteen serveries are deserted after 15 minutes and all queues have vanished by this time. It would appear that there is ample time for the students to buy and eat lunch. I am still frustrated that I cannot offer students more indoor space to sit and eat their lunch, particularly on wet days; when the weather is dry we are able to spread out across our school fields which is great. Naturally I will also be consulting with staff and students about the school day and once this job is complete I will report back to everyone on my findings. I will contact parents/carers at the beginning of next term to ask for your detailed comments.

School Improvement Fund

[I want to draw parents/carers attention to fund raising campaigns that are currently running and successfully bringing monies into our School Improvement Fund.](#)

Our School Lottery was drawn for the first time last weekend. Our first winner, Ms Wilson, one of our Assistant Headteachers, very kindly donated her winnings back into the School Improvement fund. As more people sign up to this lottery, so the amount of prize money for each draw increases and there is always the chance of winning the £25,000 national jackpot! The school directly benefits from 40% of the ticket sales.

I also wanted to draw your attention to two further fund raising ventures. I am very grateful to Deputy Headteacher Ms Mason who is taking part in the Great North Swim – a 1-mile open water swim across Lake Windermere which is not for the faint hearted – and raising funds for the school through her Just Giving page. Not to be outdone our school Business Manager Ms Morgan is taking part in the 'Wolf Run' - a 10km run over a muddy obstacle course. She will be doing this with a team of friends and is again raising funds for the school through her Just Giving page. Details of both these fantastic fund raising attempts can be found on the school website along with details of how to donate. I thank both of these colleagues for their generosity and support of the school. As you will all know we are fund raising to install a new lift into the building so that one of our students, Dan Ball, can access the upper floor of the school in his electric wheel chair. Further events are planned for the coming months – more details will be published nearer to the time.

Punctuality

Can I please remind parents/carers that our school day begins at 8:30am.

Students should be arriving for their tutor session by this time. We have an increasing incidence of students arriving late for school which I am keen to improve upon. To be on time for tutor time requires students to be on the premises before 8:30am. Our small carpark gates are closed at 8:25am to allow staff to be in the building themselves by 8:30am. Students arriving after this time then have to use the main school entrance. Your support with student punctuality is much appreciated.

Parking

Can I please remind all users of our school car parks to use them with high levels of care and attention, and particularly respect the need to keep speed very low and use marked bays when parking.

I have had reports of cars travelling too fast in the car park which presents a danger to pedestrians and also that cars are being parked in an inconsiderate way which blocks access for larger vehicles. If you use the school car parks please respect these rules. Thank you for your assistance in these matters.

Easter Holidays

As I am sure parents/carers will know, we break up for our Easter holiday at the normal time - 2:50pm on Friday 12th April.

We return back to school for a very short but busy 4 week half term on Monday 29th April at normal times. School is also closed on Monday 6th May as this is a bank holiday.

Can I please take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Easter and I look forward to welcoming the students back to school for the summer term refreshed and ready to go!

Tim Chamberlin
(Headteacher)