



11th February 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. This is just a quick update as we finish for the February half term break.

Year 11 Revision

A reminder that Year 11 students have signed up for revision sessions run by staff over the half term holiday. This will cover key areas of learning and will be incredibly beneficial. Mr Williams and Mrs Rainey have sent out the timetable and are co coordinating the half term revision scheme.

Pre Public Exams

Year 11 will begin sitting these papers on 28th February. Alongside the mock exams we held before Christmas, these are an important milestone in Year 11s preparation for the summer GCSEs. Can Year 11 parents please talk through their revision timetables with their children? Students tell us that support from home is invaluable in keeping them on track and helping them prepare. Help on how to support your child can be found on the school website, under the STUDENTS tab at the top. If you go to the Year 11 page, you will find a number of really useful resources to support the revision process.

COVID 19

We still have a number of staff and students being affected by the virus, although, fortunately, the numbers have declined. There are plans to change the isolation guidance. As soon as Department for Education and Department for Health confirm this, I will write home. In the meanwhile, the current guidelines are still in place.

Parking

Unfortunately, we have seen a rise in parents/carers parking inconsiderately when picking up their youngsters after school. This is both dangerous for our young people and difficult for the immediate community. I asked at the start of the year for parents not to park in the roads directly by school. Please do not be offended if we ask parents could they move on and park elsewhere. Thank you!

Highlights of the half term

We have had a brilliant half term with so much going on in school. We have had a London trip, theatre visits- all Year 11 have watched a performance of Christmas Carol, visits to Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Chester Zoo to name but a few. And we have had a number of great inter-house events, with lots more to look forward to- Inter House Chess, The Crystal Maze Challenge in Science and our Dance Factor Dance Off. Year 11 will also be organising the Colour Run on 21st February to raise money for LGBTQ charities- anyone can take part and needs to wear a white t shirt and a £1 donation to The Princes Trust.

More than anything else it has been an utter pleasure to spend time in classrooms with our wonderful young people and watch them getting so involved in their learning. We had a review last week organised with colleague, secondary school heads and senior leaders (we reciprocate by spending time reviewing each other's school) the feedback from Mr Rainey, Principal at St Ambrose College was glowing. He said, 'The behaviour of the pupils was excellent. Teaching was very strong with a good range of strategies used.'

He also spoke to a group of parents. They were, 'very positive about the school and the support for their child's individual needs. They said that, "teachers know my child" and "I can't praise the school enough." They were unanimous about approachability and the speed of the school's response.'

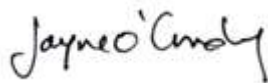
We were really pleased with this feedback and thank all the parents who took part.

School Return

We return to school on the 21st February at the normal time. We will be having a focus on correct uniform and equipment. Could I ask families to check that students have the correct uniform well in advance of our return so we can all get off to the best start on February 21st?

In the meanwhile, thank you so much once again for all your brilliant support and help.

Have a wonderful half term!



Ms J O'Grady
Headteacher