



26th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

As you'll know we break up tomorrow 27th May 2022 and return to school after the half term break on Monday 6th June at the normal time. I hope you and your families have a wonderful time together and the weather is kind to us all. Lots of the students have been talking about jubilee celebrations going on towards the end of the week in the long bank holiday weekend. I hope you have a great time, whatever your plans!

It has been a really, really busy half term with lots of learning and lots of fun activities and events.

Year 11 have been brilliantly focused and we are in full swing with the GCSE exams. We have had to reiterate exam regulations to the year group- please also mention this at home - as we have had a couple of occasions where students have not checked their pockets properly and ended up taking items into the exam room they shouldn't have. It's vital that they do this properly. They can face a removal of all marks for that paper –or indeed for other papers with that exam board- if they are found to be in malpractice.

We have had papers in a wide range of subjects, including, Maths, English Language and Literature, PE and Sports, History and this morning Spanish reading and listening. A huge thank you to the students for their brilliant turn out at the additional booster sessions- many of which are before school and to our amazing staff for running them. GCSE exams continue after the half term. There are additional revision sessions in school for Year 11 over half term. Students should continue to study and prepare properly over half term as well as take some time for rest and relaxation. Similarly, Year 10 have sat their first RE paper. They behaved impeccably in the exam. We wish them luck for their other papers and remind them of the need for good preparation!

The other year groups have also been sitting exams and summer assessments with every year group having an opportunity to experience sitting papers in the large sports hall venue, just as they will for GCSE. We are so proud of how well they have adapted to this and how well prepared they have been.

There have been lots of other great things going on in school as well as exams this term! This morning three tutor groups had a special breakfast of doughnuts and hot chocolate for getting the most 'caught being good' cards in school. Well done to 7Z, 8X and 9B for being absolutely brilliant!

We have had a theatre trip visit to 'Chicago' at the Palace theatre this week. In addition, we have sent a successful team to the Robotics Challenge led by Mr Adebajo, participated in lots of sporting fixtures, 7C won our sunflower growing competition and we are busily planning our first Duke of Edinburgh expedition which we are really excited about. Rehearsals for Matilda are also in full swing.

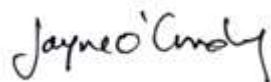
We have a lot of great things next half term to look forward to. The list includes: Cultural Diversity Day (which we loved last year), Year 11 Prom, Blackpool rewards trip, KS3 Celebration and Awards morning, Super Learning Day, World of Work Day for Year 10, Geography field trips PLUS Year 5 and 6 Open Morning and Open Eveningso, we are very busy with so much going on!

As I close, could I please ask families not to request holidays in term time- these will not be authorised and may incur a fine. There has been an increase in requests for holidays as the world has opened up again after Covid. With students having missed so much education we cannot authorise these.

Uniform is looking good. Standards detention has worked well in addressing issues with ties. We are aware that students do lose them whilst playing on the field at break and lunch and ask them to put them in their inner blazer pocket if this is the case whilst playing out. Please remember facial piercings are not permitted and students will be asked to remove. The half term is also an opportunity to check students have correct uniform and equipment.

I will sign off here. Have a great holiday and please get in touch if we can offer support and advice in any way.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne O'Grady". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ms J O'Grady
Headteacher