19th April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to the new term and, it would seem, much better weather! Thank you all for your support last term and in particular for your responses to both the parent survey in January and then again to the survey linked to our Ofsted inspection. The voice of our parents is important to our self-evaluation and thus to school improvement and we value the time that you take to let us know your thoughts.

In terms of the Ofsted inspection which, as most of you will be aware, was undertaken in the school on the 20th and 21st of March, we are now in the waiting period before the report is published. Following any Ofsted inspection, the report is written off-site and then goes through a number of moderation and checking processes before it is ready for publication. We have been told that this could take until June, but that the timelines are difficult to guess. As soon as the school receives the final report, I will be back in touch with you all.

Towards the end of last term, the PE Department ran a number of different activities to raise awareness of and money for the Sport Relief campaign. It was great to see so many of our students participating in a wide range of sporting activities on both sites and to have the school play a role in the nationwide initiative.

This term is starting with another big event – the production of Hairspray is next week. We have a dress rehearsal matinee on Tuesday, followed by two evening performances on the 25th and 26th April at 7pm, and I do hope that many of our parents will be able to join the audiences and celebrate the talents and hard work of those students and staff involved. Tickets can be purchased via Parent Pay or from Reception at both sites.

This is the term of formal examinations and our Year 11 and 13 students in particular are on the final run-up to these big assessments. It is good to see so many Year 11 students taking advantage of our new John Roan Plus Programme of additional sessions after school and on Saturdays, but I know that the pressure is mounting for them and we are all looking to ensure that they are supported in managing their workloads as well as being fully prepared for the exam period.

I have written to you before about our commitment to appointing new staff to vacancies and to ensuring that we are building and maintaining a high quality staff group. I am therefore delighted to welcome Geoffrey Wiles to our Humanities Department, where he is now leading on RE and Sociology. I am also pleased to welcome Tracey Arnold to the school. Tracey is now the Headteacher’s PA and Office Manager. Pat Taylor has not left us though – following a short break, she will be returning to the school later this term as SLT Admin Assistant.

Our Year 8 Parent Evening is on the 17th May and I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Yours faithfully,

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Executive Headteacher

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