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Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James  
1st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I have enjoyed talking to students in break and lunchtimes and have been impressed with their positive and respectful attitudes. I have appreciated their honesty and openness, sharing what they believe to be working well and ideas for what we can improve further.

The number referenced in brackets throughout this letter, directly links to the Post Ofsted Action Plan (POAP) for you to see evidence of our relentless drive to make rapid improvement.

(Priority 3) As I walk around the school, I have been impressed with the calmness in lessons and at break times. This was due in part to the schools focus on punctuality. There has been a clear impact on the allocation of additional house points, rewarding students for their promptness to lessons and eagerness to learn.

(Priority 1 and 4) Our Head of Faculty has been busily organising a French Language Performance to KS4, which will take place in the spring term to mark 'Journée Internationale de la Francophonie'. The faculty is also launching a Christmas card exchange project today. We look forward to sharing more information on this next week.

(Priority 2) I am very pleased to share that we have appointed our SENDCo, Mr Marius Dan and Dr Caroline Kafka-Markey, our new Deputy SENDCo, who will join us in the spring. This added capacity going forward, will support the work of the whole staff to meet the needs of all of our students so they can flourish.

(Priority 5) Our Careers lead, Mr Ouldrige, has met with the Army Engagement Team. They are keen to support the school with a focus on careers and STEM awareness. They will provide Year 9 and Year 10 careers days in March 2024, more information to follow.

Looking ahead to next week, it is full of Christmas cheer, and I am excited to share our plans with you. (Priority 4) We have the Y7 Christchurch trip on Monday, our Carol concert on Tuesday evening and the School Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day on the 7th December.

We are also looking forward to welcoming you to the community Christingle on the evening of the 7th December in the piazza between the schools. More information to follow on this early next week.

#### Attendance – Ms Woodfield

We are delighted that we have seen an overall improvement in attendance from Term 6 to Term 1, which is a wonderful result. This includes a reduction in the number of late marks, which we are grateful for as these are very disruptive to those children already in classes. We would ask for your continued support with getting your child to school on time.

#### Pastoral – Ms Parry

This week we welcomed Chris Calland from 'Not Just Behaviour' into school to complete a behaviour learning walk. She was very impressed with what she saw and noted particularly how calm the school was. She also noted the positive relationships between staff and students. Chris has identified areas to continue development but felt that significant work had already been done to support our students across the school.

We've also already rewarded more students in term 2 than we did throughout the whole term one, (over 61000 compared to 44000). This has been particularly noticeable in Yr11 whose balance between positive and negative has increased from 76% to 87%. This is reflective of the students' hard work as well as the recognition teachers are giving to them.

We continue to ask for parental support to help us with school improvement. At the foundation of this is the development of the basics (punctuality, uniform and equipment). With these in place, students are able to engage more with the curriculum in front of them. In school, teachers will continue to challenge these basic expectations and reward those who meet and exceed the expected standard.

Please also ensure that you have logged into your classcharts account (your child's tutor can help you with this if there are any issues), as this will allow you to support them with homework, behaviour and organisation of time for detentions. Your continued support is always much appreciated.

I pray you are blessed with a peaceful weekend, and I look forward to seeing you next week as we head into the final 10 days of term.

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”, Philippians 4 verse 7.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Osborne-James