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Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James
15th March 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

Proverbs 3:5-6 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths'.

Leadership and Improvement (POAP 6)

This week, Ms Connors, Mrs Bishop and I attended the Exams Office for Senior Leaders training. This will be invaluable in ensuring we are fully prepared for the summer GCSE examinations and Y10 mocks.

I am also excited to share that we have appointed an Exams Officer. We have been in contact with local secondary schools who will be providing mentoring support to ensure our new officer benefits from the opportunities and knowledge that good practice sharing brings.

Y11 parents and students will be invited to an examination information evening on 15th April at 5:30pm - please save the date, more information to follow.

The quality of teaching and learning continues to drive our leadership meetings and monitoring. Monitoring this term has included a focus on Knowledge Organisers; how they are being used and their impact on helping students learn and remember more.

We are continuing to work closely with our trust HR officers to actively recruit and fill our remaining positions. I will provide another recruitment update before Easter.

Music Activity (POAP 1&4)

This week the year 10 music students took part in some fully funded creative composition workshops, run by local composer Andre Pysanczyn. Designed to kickstart the composition element of the GCSE exam syllabus, students learnt how to manipulate fragments to begin a composition, how to compose using 'inner' and 'outer' world experience and spent time developing their IT skills notating their work Musescore. Mr Pysanczyn was able to work with all the students over the 3 days - we are lucky to have had his experience in developing work with all our musicians, no matter what their ability or instrument.

SEND (POAP 2)

Our SEND team have been working hard to develop our SEND provision and even more staff will be joining us after Easter.

In the next week, parents of children with SEND will receive a log in for 'Provision Map.' This will mean that parents can access their child's Pupil Profile. If you would like to discuss this further, tutors will be available for a 10-minute, online meeting on the afternoon of 15th April. More information will follow from the SEND department.

Pastoral (POAP 3)

This week over 12500 house points have been awarded to students. Year 7 are still ahead with the most points, but are being closely followed by Year 8 and Year 9. We have also had rehearsals ongoing for High School Musical which will be performed next week. The show is looking fantastic – don't forget to book your tickets! We would like to remind all parents that mobile phones and chewing gum are not permitted in school. Whilst we appreciate many young people need to have their phones for travel and communication, they are not allowed to use these within school. Mobile phones that are seen or used in school will be confiscated for the day and a L2 sanction will be issued. Chewing gum will also be sanctioned with a L2 detention. If any students are in reflection for the day, this will show as a L5 on their classcharts. Reflection ends half an hour after the school day. Please can we ask that parents arrange for students to be collected at 4pm (Mon – Thurs) and 2.30pm on Fridays.

Attendance (POAP 3)

We have been tracking 90% attendance for the past 2 weeks – thank you to all parents, carers and students. Good attendance supports learning & development as well social interaction, preparing students for their future.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award (POAP 4 &5)

This weekend 70 of our Y10&Y11 students will be undertaking their DofE Bronze award expedition training on the Marlborough Downs. Accompanied by 6 expedition instructors and 9 staff volunteers, they will learn all sorts of outdoor skills including navigation, first aid, cooking and teamwork. We hope and pray for good weather.

High School Musical - (POAP 4)

Don't forget to buy your tickets for our school production of High School musical, which is being presented on the 21st and 22nd March. All parents, carers and friends are welcome, you can buy your tickets via ParentPay. Limited tickets will also be available on the night, so don't miss out!

Car parking

Please can I remind you all that parking in Waitrose and Hall & Woodhouse is only available for customers. Please do not park in either when dropping off or collecting your young people.

Every blessing for a lovely weekend,

Kind regards,

Kelly Osborne-James