

3.3.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all parents who supported a smooth start to this half term by ensuring their child had the correct uniform and equipment required for school. We continue to work with a small number of students who require additional support in meeting these expectations. Thank you to the vast majority of students and parents who support for our school values by taking responsibility for consistently meeting these expectations.

As this half term started, I encouraged all students to think about what they can do even better to ensure that our school values and expectations are followed. One request was around manners and acknowledging greetings from staff – it has been delightful to see how many students have paid heed to this and are going out of their way to respond to and initiate greetings and exchanges with me and other staff members around the school site and at the school gate at the start and end of the school day. Thank you everyone, it makes my day!

We have had a busy and productive 2 weeks back since half term. This has included:

- Our Year 11 Food and Nutrition GCSE students very successfully completing their NEA practical assessments – the staff invited to evaluate the café meals that they produced were extremely impressed by how delicious the items that they produced looked and tasted, and by their time management and organisation.
- A whole school moment of reflection on Friday 22nd February to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine.
- Year 8, and Year 9 students who were not able to take part last year, have enjoyed a 3-night residential to Hagg Farm, taking part in a wide range of outdoor pursuits and teambuilding activities. Due to the number of students taking part we ran two trips, so thank you to all the staff who took part, including giving up part of a weekend, or supported by covering classes for absent colleagues.
- A trip to Nottingham University for our Brilliant Book Award group – including a round of applause from everyone present for Hannah in Year 7 who was one of few students across all the schools to read all the nominated books!
- World Book Day activities on Thursday 2nd March including a Tutor Group 'Guess that Shelfie' challenge, a Library reading challenge, and a World Book Day DEAR time featuring a reading by school staff of 'Ten Minutes' Musing' by Alice Dunbar Nelson, one of the African American writers whose artistic talents sparked the Harlem Renaissance.
- An opportunity for our Year 10 Art group to work with a visiting artist in school on Friday 3rd March.

Thank you to parents of Year 10 students who attended our online Year 10 subject parents evening on 22nd February – it was our best Parents Evening attendance so far! We look forward to inviting you to attend our on-site Post-16 Options launch event on Thursday 11th May.

Thank you to all parents for respecting the fact that the Visitor Car Park is closed for 15 minutes at the start and end of the school day – this has enabled us to ensure that students are safe from traffic while they are on the school site.

Thank you for your support in getting ready for the move to our new till and online payment system in the cafeteria next week. We will be redoing the biometric system on Monday and the system will

go live from Wednesday. Please ensure you have read the information from Mrs Holling and please do contact school if you require further support.

Next week we will be celebrating International Women's Day on Wednesday 8th March and taking part in activities to mark National Careers Week. We have a large number of sports activities and fixtures to look forward to, including a Girls football quarter final against Carlton le Willows at Alderman White on Tuesday 7th March – good luck to the team!

Yours faithfully,

Mrs A Mellors
Headteacher