

10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## February Half Term

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As the half term comes to a close, I write to acknowledge some of the amazing achievements of our students over the last 6 weeks, to inform you of some up-coming events, and to highlight arrangements for our return on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Since the beginning of the year, we have conducted our virtual Year 7 parents evening and I am very grateful for the positive engagement from parents/ carers during the evening. I hope you found it useful in helping your child in their learning; your support with this is shown to have a direct and significant impact on student outcomes. We will be holding our next Parents Forum event later this term and I do encourage you to become involved in this, as it provides a great opportunity for you to find out more about what is going on in school, ask any questions you have and to become involved in other events around the school. As usual, there have been a range of trips taking place this half term, including sports fixtures, careers events, trips to shows and the Year 11 revision residential. We close the half term with students going abroad: on the History trip to Munich and the Ski Trip to Saalbach, Austria.

There have also been numerous highlights within school so far this term- with fantastic and creative work from students. I have been very pleased to issue a number of Head of School Commendations, for a range of achievements. Of course, a particular highlight has been the school production this week- our first full, in-person production in three years. Those of you who have seen it will agree that the standard was phenomenal. The dedication of all involved was first rate, and I cannot congratulate students (and staff) highly enough. The opportunity to be part of a team, working together over many months to produce something of such high quality is one that I know will live long in the memory of those involved.




Please note the following upcoming dates after Half Term:

Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Year 10 Parents Evening (virtual)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Drama trip to Old Vic
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Careers Trip
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Q6 Parents Evening (in-person)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9 Options Fair
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10 History Trip
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 9 Parents Evening (virtual)

**Head of School:** Mr T. Beecham, BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA

**Executive Principal:** Mr A. Crofts BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL

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Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9 Options Appointment Evening
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11 Parents Evening (in-person)
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Academy Day

The following exams will be taking place next half term:

Year 9 exams in English, Maths and Science	20 <sup>th</sup> February - 24 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 13 Mock 2 Exams	20 <sup>th</sup> February – 24 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 11 Mock 2 Exams	27 <sup>th</sup> February – 10 <sup>th</sup> March

We return to school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February for a normal school day (students should arrive by 8.15am ready for line-up at 8.20am). Please take the time to ensure students have everything they need for school- including stationery and uniform. We will be making two minor adjustments for after half term, which are outlined below. The overwhelming majority of students continue to do the right thing all of the time, and do very well indeed in modelling our LEARN attributes and values. Unfortunately, from time to time, some individuals do fall short of these expectations and we therefore act to ensure this has the minimum impact on those students themselves, and those around them. The below are designed to help this happen more effectively.

- **Loan ties and Lanyards.** We find that we are currently lending a high number of these items therefore, to ensure they are safely returned at the end of the day, we will be requiring students to deposit an item of their own in exchange for the loaned item. Items which can be exchanged are: a bank card, oyster card, house keys, mobile phone or £1. These items will be logged and stored securely to be returned to students when they hand the loaned tie or lanyard back in at the end of the school day. Students who are unwilling or unable to exchange items and do not have their tie or lanyard will be required to work in the Supervision Room for the day.
- **Students who are late to school.** Any student arriving to school after 8.20am will sit a detention that evening in G1 lasting twice the length of time they are late for (i.e. a student arriving at school at 8.26 is 6 minutes late so would sit a 12 minute detention). Students will be informed of this in the morning, and will be required to go to G1 themselves. Failure to do so will result in a Formal Detention the following day.

I finish by reiterating my gratitude for the support we receive from you as parents/ carers. This really is crucial to help us create the environment necessary for students to flourish as learners and achieve their potential, both academically and in their wider development.

I hope your children enjoy a restful and productive break.

Yours sincerely,



**T. Beecham**  
**Head of School**