

16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

This letter includes information about our successes this half term, information for families of years 11 and 13 and other important information about school matters.

Firstly, I would like to talk about some of our successes this half term. As we complete the final week of the half term, I would like to give an overview of the numerous events that we have held in the spring term to date. I am very proud of how our students have conducted themselves during enrichment experiences and of all of the hard work from our staff in organising them.

Key enrichment events January- February 2022:

- Year 10 work experience pre-placement interviews
- Year 10 work experience (week of 31st January)
- Year 11 BMET College aspirations visit
- After school sports clubs (Years 7 -11 – many doing multiple clubs each week)
- Barclays life skills launch (Whole Year 7 cohort)
- Year 10 Art trip to Birmingham City Centre
- Year 11 History trip to Palace Theatre
- Year 13 Biology Field Residential
- Year 11 managing exam stress (Whole Year 11 cohort)

The Principal Awards

I have created a new award. Teachers nominate pupils who have worked hard, made progress or have made a positive change. This is a very special award, that I am delighted to give out in lessons. I have awarded 20 pupils so far and I hope to award many more. Each pupil is given a Principal Award pin badge that I would like them to wear with pride, as I am proud of them.

Year 11 and 13 Parental Consultation Evening (PCE) - Moving Online

Following the postponement of both the year 11 and 13 face-to-face evenings, we have booked the date of 3<sup>rd</sup> March for the online parents evening. Further information regarding the evening will be shared with parents very soon and will include guidance. We are using a company, recommended by many schools. The appointments will be in 5 minute blocks. Please look out for a parent mail with information and a link to a video, which explains how to use the booking systems and how to access it on the day. We highly encourage the use of the camera function on devices during conversations with staff and we are highly encouraging staff to also use the camera function on their device too.

### Some of the remaining key events taking place before the Easter holidays:

- Year 11 and 13 online parent consultation evening - 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- World Book Day event in school years 7-9-3<sup>rd</sup> March
- Years 10 and 11 - super Maths and Science day on 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- Year 11 and 13 Final Pre-Public Exams (PPEs-Mocks) are taking place WB 7<sup>th</sup> March and WB 14<sup>th</sup> March

### Year 11 and 13 Examination Topics - Year 11 and 13 Terminal Public Exams in May and June 2022

Teaching staff are sharing content lists following the final exam board releases on 7<sup>th</sup> February ahead of the Summer examinations. With only 10 school weeks left until the first official examination, our staff are working incredibly hard on making sure curriculum plans are in place to cover all of the content in lessons. All students will access topic area information. It is important that students continue to prepare for their PPEs as these will enable the final aspects of revision to take place. Practising exam style questions is the best form of practice for students.

### Year 11 and 13 Pre-Public Exams - PPEs (Mocks 2)

The final PPEs take place for two weeks from 7<sup>th</sup> March.

PPE exams have three main aims:

1. The first is to interrupt what we call the "forgetting curve" - the natural way in which learned information fades from memory if you do not revisit it regularly. PPEs interrupt this process by giving students opportunities to retrieve this information and thereby consolidate their understanding.
2. The second is to practise the process of revising for, and taking exams.
3. The third is for teachers and students to work out where they are in their progress, and what to do next to be successful in the final exams.

All students must prepare well and take these exams very seriously.

We have two hardworking year groups in years 11 and 13. Please can parents and carers encourage their children to get the right balance of study and rest over the half term holidays - too much of either is not ideal, and it is important that they look after their wellbeing whilst aiming high in and devoting time to their revision and studies at home. Please support your child by creating the right conditions at home to revise and learn.

### Terminal Public Examinations for years 11 and 13 will happen in May and June 2022

The work of teaching and preparing pupils in years 11 and 13 for their terminal exams continues and students should continue to work hard to be ready for these summer exams. **There will be no teacher assessed grades this year - all course grades will be decided by terminal exams.**

In school we continue to carry out assessment and every lesson counts towards exam success. **To be successful, students must do all they can to work hard in lessons, to attend school if well and to carry out home learning and study.** In previous communications I have given advice to parents and carers relating to study and learning for these exams and I reiterate a key message here about regular review of learning as part of a long-term revision programme that your child will need to organise each week:

Year 11 and year 13 have been taught how to make 'life timetables', to support organising self-study time over a longer period. We know that pupils are far more likely to feel overwhelmed or demotivated if there is too much left to do at the end of the course, so daily reviews of learning and revision are the key to improve memory retention of lots of facts and information needed for exam success and to be mentally in control of exam readiness. Last minute cramming is the most unsuccessful way to prepare for exams.

We will continue to teach and model to years 11 and 13 the best research proven ways to learn and prepare for exams.

### Year 11 February Half Term Classes

A number of subjects are running half term master classes between Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February during the half term holiday. Your child will be invited by their teachers. Please speak to your child to check what classes they have been invited to.

### School Uniform and Taking Pride in Looking Smart

Students should wear their uniform with pride and the vast majority do. High standards of uniform set the right tone and create the right mind-set for effective learning. Pride in one's appearance is very important. To that end, please ensure your child attends every day, wearing the correct uniform, identity badge and lanyards, suitable footwear and with an appropriate haircut. Your child should have a suitable outdoor waterproof coat during cold weather. Your child must not bring jewellery or valuable items into school. Please also read our policy on mobile phones, which is on our school website. If a phone is found on your child in school, it will be confiscated following our policy. Thank you for your support with this.

### Aiming for 100% attendance and punctuality to school - why this is important for a child's education and future success

It is very important that parents, carers and families do all they can to ensure that no day is missed in a child's education and that every child arrives on time to school. Attendance has been affected by Covid-19 and we understand that. For the remaining part of the school year, I highly encourage all families to support their child in making excellent attendance to school a priority. Much schooling has been missed due to lockdowns and closing the gaps can only happen when students are present in lessons to be taught by their teachers and guided in their follow-up home learning/homework.

All parents of Waverley want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that every child has the best opportunities leading into their adult life. Children only get one chance at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school regularly.

### If children do not attend school regularly and on time they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work. In a busy school day, it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up from days of non-attendance.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, will also help your child later on in their life.
- Have less chance of securing a job when they are adults. Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, their teacher and the other children in the class. Some parents may be finding it difficult to ensure that their child attends school regularly. If this is the case please speak to Mr Kamara, Vice Principal or your child's Achievement Coordinator as soon as possible so that the situation can be addressed. We are here to help.

### What might the impact of poor attendance be on your child?

In secondary schools less than 65% of children achieve good results in English and Maths with an average of 15 days' absence a year compared to almost 90% where the average is less than 8 days. Parents can be very surprised at how quickly their children can accumulate 15 days' absence within a year. Research has also shown that children who are not in school can become vulnerable. For example, children who play truant are more likely to be drawn into crime, drug taking and gangs than those who do not.

### The world is run by those who turn up!

- Attending school every day = 100% attendance.
- Attending 4½ days a week = 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year.
- Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year.
- Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed.
- An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school.
- Being late for school reduces learning time. If your child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss three days of learning each year. If your child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year.

Please support your child to achieve well in their education by attending on time every day.

### COVID-19- Latest Information

I think we can all begin to interpret that the government plan going forward will be to try to return to normality with the imminent relaxation of the testing regime - more to follow in due course from the Government.

We do continue to experience incidents of COVID-19 in both students and staff and I am very proud that we have managed to keep the school open to all year groups throughout this half term, no matter how hard it got to source cover teachers. This half term has had its challenges and the last 4 months have been the

most extraordinary in my 23-year career. I know we have done the best for our students. I am proud of our students and staff for their commitment to do their best operationally every day. School attendance is a huge focus at present and it is important that every student attends school every day to progress and learn. Please continue to support your child to carry out LFD tests twice weekly to prevent COVID-19.

We have the second round of NHS COVID-19 vaccinations taking place in school on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February for any pupil aged 11-15 - subject to parent consent (NHS forms have already been sent out to you in recent weeks).

I would like thank all families for their support during this very challenging period of time since Christmas. When half term arrives, I would like to wish all families a safe and enjoyable half term break. The school reopens to all staff and students on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February at normal time.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Lloyd  
Co-Principal (Secondary and Sixth Form Phases)