

17 February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Re: End of Half-Term Update**

As we approach the end of a busy and successful first half of the spring term, I would like to thank you all for the very warm welcome that I have received during my first few weeks in post as Principal of Waverley Secondary and Sixth Form. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know students, staff and our local families and look forward to working with you all in the future. It really is an honour and a privilege to have been welcomed into the school, where I have found a hardworking and ambitious community that is determined to do the very best for all students. As a leadership team we have exciting plans to drive school standards forward and I will write to all parents in March to outline our plans for the future. I am happy to share with parents that we have recently added capacity to our Leadership team with the appointment of Mr D. Leese as Vice Principal for Student Wellbeing and Learning. We are also looking to appoint a new Assistant Principal with responsibility for Sixth Form to ensure our Sixth Form has strong, dynamic leadership and help our Sixth Form students grow from strength to strength.

A number of other important messages for Parents/Carers are:

### **Year 11 Half-Term Interventions**

We will be running Year 11 Intervention sessions during half-term between 10am and 1pm. We are running sessions in Maths, History, Geography, Religious Education and Psychology during this half-term. Your son/daughter will have received a letter if they are participating in this intervention. We are also launching a new intervention schedule for the second half of the spring term and will also be running a Saturday School for Year 11 students. I will write to Year 11 parents about this during the first week of the new half-term. A gentle reminder that mock examinations start for Year 11 students the **week beginning Monday 27 February 2023**.

### **Respect for Our Community**

We are somewhat concerned at the amount of litter around the school site, both inside and outside the building. We are incredibly proud of the fantastic school building and grounds we have and it is important we look after our community. Please could you encourage your son/daughter to respect our community and ensure they are not littering, taking pride in looking after our school building and ensuring no damage is caused to school property. Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in graffiti in recent weeks and also some damage to school property, which the school has been left with no choice but to charge parents for repairs that need to take place. Again, can I please urge you to discuss the importance of respecting our school community. I will be running assemblies with students during the first week back focusing on respecting our school to reinforce this message.

## **Student Council**

On Thursday 16 February 2023, I met with our Student Council to discuss improvement we can make to Waverley Secondary and Sixth Form. As part of this, we have agreed to look at the menus in the canteen and work with our catering company to refine our food choices. A student survey will be issued to students in the new half-term and we hope to our catering can offer menu using feedback from our students. Our student council are also keen to introduce new reward trips for students that are doing exceptionally well at Waverley and also looking to create some new plastic recycling bins and we are working together to look at designing these – watch this space for more information in relation to these initiatives in the summer term!

## **Staff Absence**

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we have seen an influx of long-term absence that is impacting on our students. As a Trust, we are working hard to recruit additional teachers, particularly in English, Maths, Science and History to boost our workforce further. As a result of this, we have had to deploy a number of supply teachers in the interim. We have made modifications to our timetable to ensure **all** of our students are taught by subject specialists and Waverley teachers for the majority of these lessons. Please can I ask for your patience whilst we work hard to recruit the very best teachers for our students which will significantly improve students' educational experience.

As a parent, I completely understand the frustration parents/carers will have with this and ask you to give me the time and support to resolve the issues we are currently facing. I will update parents further with our recruitment once we have new teachers in place, ready to add great value to our school community.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all of our students/staff/parents and carers a restful and relaxing half-term. **We look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 27 February 2023.** It promises to be a busy half-term of 5 weeks, with the holy month of Ramadan around the corner, which many of our families will be observing.

Yours sincerely,

*M. Hire*

Mr M Hire  
**Principal (Secondary and Sixth Form)**