



October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

What a **brilliant start** to a new academic year and a **great end to term 1!** This time last year it's fair to say students were still in the process of rising to our new high standards and expectations. A year on, students have truly begun where last year we left off! Behaviour for the vast majority has been **exceptional** and the 'turn around' of a few has been particularly noted. Students have begun the year **more organised** with their new-look knowledge organisers and our **single break and lunch** has been smoother than we ever could have hoped for. The numbers of students receiving merits has doubled and I offer a particular congratulations to those students with superb attendance above 94% who have received zero C3s this term resulting in an ice-cream treat today as part of our '**Frozen Friday**' initiative today.

- Our **extra-curricular provision** and events continue to grow with 54 students signed up in Year 9 to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Our annual Year 7 visit to Dean Fields Study Centre went without a hitch and supported the newest members of our community to build confidence, explore new opportunities and make new friendships. Our visiting author Sue Wallman was an inspiration to our Year 7, 8 and 11 cohorts.
- Our desire to find opportunities to **promote and enhance student leadership** has built momentum with a record 16 Year 11 Student Leaders taking roles in leadership, boosting our eco credentials and supporting our SEMH provision in school. The establishment of our new Year 10 pastoral leaders saw our most successful non-uniform day to date, raising a record amount in support of 'Hello Yellow' for World Mental Health Day. I look forward to seeing our Sports Leaders increase the opportunity for all students to play sport during lunchtimes.
- Our **open events** were some of our most popular to date with an additional day's events laid on last week following popular request. We have no doubt we'll be oversubscribed again this year for the 5th year running.
- Our **building works totalling £¾ million** are now complete resulting in a state-of-the-art Food and Nutrition cooking room, three new Humanities classrooms, and a new science laboratory. Next term will see the grand opening of our new toilet blocks. Whilst still unused, look out for our senior team on social media who have pledged to hold the first morning briefing of Term 2 there given that they are now officially the most luxurious location in our school!

As important reminders:

- if you're **communicating with us**, please ensure you follow the guidance set out in my letter last week to ensure the best placed person can respond to your enquiry in

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a timely manner. Our regular phone lines will be back up and running next term too; thanks for bearing with us.

- if you **drop off or collect** your child by car, PLEASE ensure you **do so responsibly**. Drive with caution, particularly in the surrounding areas adjacent to the school during busy times; do not block neighbours' driveways; and ensure you park responsibly - avoiding curbs, grass verges, double yellow keep clear lines and even roundabouts! Equally, if your child rides a bike to school, they **MUST** wear a helmet, and I include accompanying information about our safer cycle scheme with this letter.

We wish our 44 boys and 10 girls 'goede reis' as they make their way to **Amsterdam** today on our now annual October half term football tour and I thank those staff and indeed all staff and Governors for their hard work and dedication this term. We look forward to welcoming back all students on **Monday 4th November**.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Hunter
Headteacher