

Dear Parents/ Carers

As we come to the end of a long and busy half term, I am writing to reflect on some of the exciting events that have occurred in recent weeks and to inform you of important dates and events to note for the remainder of this academic year.

I wish to congratulate the students on their efforts and impeccable behaviour in the recent exams. ROAs are issued this week and for vast bulk of the year group they have been overwhelmingly a pleasure to read. They also offer timely guidance and advice as to the next steps that need to be taken to build upon their current successes. Those that have been appointed as Prefects and Learning Ambassadors have enjoyed breakfast with Mrs Walton and are settling in to their new roles well. I look forward to charting their journey over the coming year. Some of Year 10 have been on a visit to Oxford University which has hopefully provided them with food for thought regarding their future ambitions. Our art students have welcomed a visitor from the Nottingham Contemporary gallery, our hugely talented musicians performed in the late, late Easter Concert and our Geographers have been to Edale on a fieldwork visit. I remain impressed with the large number of Year 10 students who continue to work with commitment and enthusiasm in various after school clubs, in particular those who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh award. It feels like they are long overdue a rest and I am sure the half term break will enable them to recharge their batteries ready for the final half term.

On their return on 4th June, please could I enlist your support with a number of issues? As the most senior members of the school, it is imperative that they act as role models for the younger students, particularly as we are soon to welcome Year 6 on their visits in preparation for September. Although summer uniform will be permitted, please could I ask that students adhere to the rules regarding trousers and shoes in particular. A lot of Year 10 seem to have enjoyed a growth spurt in recent months and if you are in a position whereby you need to purchase new uniform in half term, please be mindful of the requirements. A few of the girls are starting to wear “skinny” fashion type trousers that are not suitable. In addition, half term provides the opportunity for all of us to replenish our stationery supplies.

After half term, you may receive an invitation to an intervention parents evening when staff may discuss with you techniques and offer advice regarding the best way to support your child to make further progress in subjects where they believe they can do even better. Please do not be concerned if you are asked to attend. Unfortunately, I will not be available on that evening but if you would like to meet with me to discuss your child’s progress, please do contact me at school and we can sort a mutually convenient time.

The students have achieved so much in such a short space of time. It has been encouraging to see so many of them engaging so readily with the merit award system at school. There have been regular prizes each term and the big prize draw will happen at the end of the year. In order that we keep the momentum going and provide them with the opportunity to collect even more, you should see an increase in homework starting to appear on the hub in

all subject areas. Please also be aware that there will be summer holiday homework set by all subjects later in the term. This is not a new initiative, it has been happening for a number of years and with great success. We do appreciate parents support with this. Please be assured that we are mindful, of course, that students need a rest and to spend quality time with their families.

The GCSE examinations are far more rigorous than they have ever been. With this in mind, students will be undertaking further formal tests in lessons in the last two weeks of term to check progress and highlight any areas of concern for next year. These tests, along with the recent formal exam, will be used as the basis for deciding on tiered level entries in some subjects next year and for possible set changes in core subjects. It is important that they prepare thoroughly for these tests in due course.

Finally, the last week of term all Year 10 students will be undertaking work experience. There are still a small handful that have yet to secure work placements. Should this still be the case after half term, could I suggest that you contact Mr Bannister at school as a matter of urgency to discuss options.

I wish you all a wonderful half term break. As you can see, we have a busy half term ahead. The next few weeks will set the foundation to build upon next year. I look forward to seeing a renewed energy and focus when we return for the final half term.

Kind Regards

M Davies

Mrs M Davies