

5 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As we break for Easter, I thought I would write to you again and provide an update on our work this term.

At this time of year my colleagues are working very hard with all students, particularly Years 11 and 13 as they prepare these two year groups for public examinations. I have been extremely impressed by the work ethic of the current Year 11 students, many of whom were pleasantly 'surprised' at their success in the pre public exams (PPE's) in February. Progress and attainment data is looking positive so I would encourage all parents/carers to ensure students plan their time wisely and have some good quality study time over the Easter break. Some subjects are delivering extra sessions over Easter, thank you to my colleagues for this extra 'push' which often results in students achieving higher grades in the summer. I am particularly impressed by a group of high ability Year 11 students who have started a Grade 9 WhatsApp Group!

The Sixth Form trip to China in February was a roaring success with the school receiving a number of lovely messages thanking colleagues for their efforts. Mrs Moore led the trip but thanks also to Mrs Carter, Mrs Gibb, Mr Smith and Mrs Bishopp. This is our first ever trip to China and the quality of the tour as well as the variety of activities means it may well be considered again. Students were impeccably behaved, so thank you to them!

Along with China, this Spring has included trips to Millfield School for a theatre visit, Bryanston Higher Education Fair, Oxford University, the Oxford and Cambridge student conference, Leeson House (Year 12 Geography fieldtrip), Twickenham Rugby, some Year 7's took part in Flying the Flag for the Commonwealth in Blandford town centre, students enjoyed a theatre visit to see the Curious Incident, and there was a Year 9 workplace visit to Wessex Water.

In school, we continue with our focused approach to our post OFSTED planning which includes a monthly visit from Lisa Linscott, LA Consultant. Last week senior leaders including myself, completed a three-hour book scrutiny with her which looked at the progress students are making, outcomes from this visit were positive. Other visits have included meetings with governors, heads of faculty and heads of year. Attitudes to learning (assessed by regular lesson observations, discussions with students, book checks and progress checks) are good across Years 7 – 11. Where students are unable to focus or behave then we will ask parents/carers to join us, sometimes with a governor present so students understand how important it is their attitude and behaviour do not negatively influence their own and others' learning.



I would like to thank parents/carers for your ongoing support including attendance at parents' evenings this academic year; I am very conscious many parents/carers work outside the area and am pleased so many of you 'save the date' as this really is the best time for colleagues across the school to feedback to you. We introduced a crèche this year to help those of you with small children and this should continue into 2019/20 as feedback has been positive about this support.

We are shortly to launch a new website so please keep an eye out for this and let us know if there are any changes you would like to see, we have asked some parents for their views on the new site and very much hope it meets your needs.

Student successes (since January) include the following – congratulations to all!

- Year 13 chemists achieved success in the International Chemistry Olympiad. These included Darcy Emmet – Silver, Meg Davies – Silver, Sam Langford - Bronze and Lauren Stephenson – Bronze.
- Year 8 netballers winning gold at the PGL netball weekend. Year 11 won silver.
- Students breaking records in the House swimming gala – Year 7 Edward Silk, Josh Fry and Natalie Brushett. Year 8 Imogen Brewer, Year 9 Ben Minter, Stephen Quine, Alicia Fielding and Millie Creffield.
- Sixth Form students entering the Light Up Poole Art Exhibition and receiving many compliments for their work.
- Year 8 showing enormous resilience on the Year 8 Robotics STEM Day and Year 9 at the first ever Big Bang (STEM) event.
- Our FatFace winners from last year attending the launch of their very own shirt in 100 stores across the country and two teams advancing into the Semi-Finals after successful pitches this year.
- Michael Johnson (Year 13) and Tom Fuller (Year 10) selected to represent the South West at the English School Cross Country Championship and Sam Hughes (Year 12) selected as reserve, despite being a year young in the Senior Boys' category.
- Lottie Cleal (Year 9) with her netball club in Poole qualifying as South West Champions and now representing the South West at the National Competition.
- In the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, amongst several Bronze and Silver Certificates Danny Hill in Year 10, one of our talented mathematicians, has scored Gold and high enough to qualify for the next round, the 'Pink Kangaroo'. He was placed in the top 1.5% of tens of thousands of entrants from all over the world. Well done to Danny and the 33 other students who took part in the challenge this year!

Finally, I am unable to conclude this letter without congratulating Mark Benham (Year 11) on becoming National Boxing Champion at the England Junior Championships in Rotherham after



MOTIVATION AND CHALLENGE FOR ALL

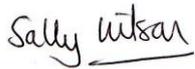
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winning his bout in the Junior Male Under 66Kg category. This means he will represent England for at least a year in competitions, his next bout will be his England debut at the 3 Nations Championships held in Cardiff 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May. Mark attended a staff meeting last week to show his belt to my colleagues and share some stories with us about his achievement. We are very proud of Mark, for his work ethic and resilience as well as (and most importantly) for his humility and modesty. We will watch his future with great interest.

Please remember to contact us directly if you have any concerns. I will write to you again during the Summer Term.

Kind Regards



Sally Wilson  
Headteacher

