



February 2012

Dear Family

I am pleased to be able to update you on some very positive news with regard to building work and the introduction of a new Rewards system in School.

The building contractors have now set up bases on each School site to begin four pieces of work. They will build a path between the two sites, provide disabled access to the Lower School, install additional and new girls' toilets at Lower School and refurbish the boys' toilets. All of this work will be completed by the start of the Summer term.

We are introducing a new Rewards system called Vivo and that is being introduced to Year 11 this week and will start with other Years after half term. The principle of the system is that students will collect points for achievement, progress, positive behaviour etc. These points can then be converted into rewards e.g. Year 11 will be able to use points towards the cost of their Prom Ticket.

We need to have an additional training day and have decided to hold it on Shrove Tuesday. We would normally allow the students to leave at lunchtime to attend the local 'Skipping Day' tradition and therefore, holding the training day on Tuesday 21 February will minimise the time out of School for students, rather than holding the training day at a later point.

There are two Year 9 Parents' Evenings in the next few weeks. On Tuesday 7 February there is a normal Parents' Evening, when parents can meet subject staff to discuss the students' progress. This is followed by an Options Evening on Tuesday 21 February (Shrove Tuesday). The two evenings will provide very useful information to enable students to make the right choices for their Key Stage Four studies.

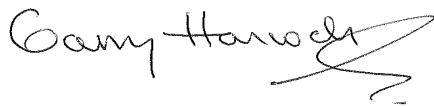
We have a regular focus on key issues in School. Currently we are reminding students of the mobile phone rule i.e. phones are to be switched off on entry to the site and placed in coats or bags until students leave School. Students caught with mobile phones out will have them confiscated, initially for the remainder of the day. We also have an ongoing focus on punctuality and students should be in School for an 8.40am start.

We would also appreciate your support when booking family holidays. We have had a number of requests for students to have time off during the term to go on holiday. There is a very important link between students' attendance and their levels of progress and attainment, therefore, we prefer students not to take time off during the term for a holiday **unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed by the Headteacher**. Holidays will only be authorised if a student's attendance is 95% or over. It is particularly important to avoid exam times for students and we have placed an exam timetable for Years 9, 10 and 11 on the School website. (A hard copy is available on request.) All other holidays will remain unauthorised and may result in a referral to the Education Social Worker.

Even when holidays are authorised, students will be expected to catch up on missed work and maybe attend after school catch up clubs. If parents would like support they should contact the Year leader.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in all of these matters

Yours faithfully



Garry Hancock
Headteacher

