

Hello Everyone,

We've had a very settled start to the Spring Term and students are happily getting back into the routines of working hard, learning and socialising which we've established here.

As the cold weather continues, we're seeing lots of students using the library at lunchtime and we've launched a 'Biggest Borrower' competition to encourage reading.

On the subject of cold weather, another reminder from us for students to bring a coat. We don't allow hoodies and non-school jumpers or cardigans; only blazers and school jumpers can be worn in school so, if your child is chilly and needs an extra layer, you might consider getting them to wear a plain white t-shirt under their shirt.

There's a Year 11 and Year 13 revision evening coming up on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb – details are in a separate letter we've sent.

Year 9 options evening was a great success this week. Our prefect helpers did a great job and were a credit to us and to their families. It was a pleasure to see so many of you and have the chance to chat. If you need any more information about options – an important decision-making time – then, please get in touch and we'll be happy to help you.

Our 'Sound Like an Expert' scheme for students to promote the use of subject specific vocabulary and to encourage confidence in articulating ideas with precision is going well. We will have a social media post to go out tomorrow. Look out for information about this week's leading experts on our social medias this week.

Mock examinations for year 11 begin the first week back after half term and we will begin to send out a weekly email to the parents of year 11 with a weekly bitesize revision task for each subject to help them to stay focused and to manage the amount of revision they're doing. Lots of work is going on in school to prepare for this too, so they are getting lots of support in the run-up to the real thing.

The Sports Centre have advised us that their carpark will be closed from 12<sup>th</sup> February. The footpath will remain open, and the Sports Centre staff have requested their carpark is not used as a waiting area for those of you who collect your children and take them home or drop them off by car.

The sun is (finally!) shining as I write this, and I wish you all a very good weekend.

Anna Cleckner

Headteacher