



Friday 16th February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Assuming your children are in school today, students will be going home with a paper copy of the latest Ofsted report. We will be putting copies of that report in the post if your son or daughter is absent today. Over half term we ask that you read it carefully and reflect on the comments that identify our strengths and the things that need to be better. The report will appear on our website (and Ofsted's) on Monday 26th February, for all the world to see.

In that first week back I shall be writing five letters to parents and carers. Each day will focus on a different topic or age group:

Monday: Attendance
Tuesday: Behaviour
Wednesday: Lower School (Years 7 and 8)
Thursday: Middle School (Years 9, 10 and 11)
Friday: Upper School (Years 12 and 13)

Meanwhile, in the whole school assembly on Monday morning, I will be talking to the students about their school and what they can do, you can do, we can do and I can do to become a truly outstanding school.

One measure of a school's success is the results of GCSE and A-level students. Over this half term, a period of nine days, students in Years 11 and 13 will make decisions that will help determine their final results. If you are a parent or carer of a Year 11 or 13 student then please remember that the vast majority of Year 11 and Year 13 students in this country will make use of this half-term to revise and get on top of their studies. Please do all you can to help your child make the right decisions and not sit back and do little or nothing until we all meet again on Monday 26th February. I cannot stress enough how important your son or daughter's attitude to learning and revision will be – my own estimation is that it is worth at least a whole grade, if not more.

Success relies on great teaching and parenting, but also students putting in long hours preparing for those examinations. We have been very, very heartened by the recent Year 11 and Year 13 mock examination results but we are equally aware how a bit of complacency and a lack of urgency can lead to some students missing out on what they are capable of achieving. My advice: *at least* 4-5 hours per day, Monday to Friday, during half term.

There are just 87 sleeps between today and the first GCSE and A-level examinations. That's just 51 school days left for those students. Please help us make every minute count.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Doherty
Headteacher

HEADTEACHER
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