

Friday 5 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see the festive season dawn in school, and I am writing to you about a number of events and initiatives still to come in this busy half term, as well as some key notices.

Coming up on 15 December is our Winter Rewards Event. The top 30 students in each year group will be rewarded with a festive treat during that Monday afternoon and so there is still time for students to collect their Reward Points! Every point will count, and we are really looking forward to celebrating the successes and efforts of our students. We will be writing to the parents of those invited on Friday 12.

Through Tutor Time, we have also launched our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. This is to support those in need in the local community and it would be fantastic to see some really wonderful hampers be sent out by each tutor group. I know from being into various tutor groups just how much effort is going into this drive, so anything that you can contribute is really appreciated!



Tutor Christmas Hamper Appeal 2025

Each tutor group to assemble a Christmas Hamper that will be donated to someone in the local community

What each tutor group needs to do

1. Source a suitable box and decorate it
2. Fill it with suitable Christmas items for someone to enjoy
 - Biscuits, chocolates, jams, cheese, non-alcoholic drinks
 - Do not include items which **do not** have a long shelf life
3. Nominate who to give the hamper to in the local community and deliver it to them
 - Please let your Year Lead know if you need support with delivery

Deadline: Monday 15th December 2025

During the course of this term, senior staff in school have put a lot of work into exploring the viability of the trip that has been run to Paris in previous years. This was under review for a number of reasons, including but not limited to: concerns raised in parent voice about the quality of the experience, concerns over the cost of the trip and extensive travel issues and delays which impacted on the time spent in Paris itself and therefore the overall value of the trip. The senior team have spent time looking at the possibility of different travel arrangements, including flying, as well as different trip providers and even other residential experiences. Unfortunately, there has not been a suitable alternative that would provide the quality or the value that we would expect. As such, we will not be running a residential trip this year. This decision has not been taken lightly and has been given the utmost scrutiny over the course of this whole term. However, we are in a position to explore a summer term day trip for Year 8 and we will be taking some student voice on this in the New Year. I will write to update you in the Spring Term.

Our latest Online Safety Newsletter is available on the website. This contains plenty of useful information on AI Chatbots, gaming, and Online Grooming. Technology moves very quickly, and I hope that you find this to be a useful resource to help you to protect your children online. You can access the newsletter on the school website under the [December Online Safety Newsletter](#).

Following the questionnaire that was made available to all Year 8 students in October, the Mental Health in Schools Team has given the school feedback on how students responded about their wellbeing. I am very pleased to write that the vast majority of pupils are really pleased with their PSHE curriculum and they feel confident with who they can talk to in school for support. This is very gratifying to see and I wanted to share that with you.

If your children are in any doubt of who they can access support from in school, they can always speak to myself or their form tutor. Beyond that, Year 8 still have access to the Student Voice Project where they can give feedback either anonymously or by providing their email address.

The first tile on the [Digital Learning Hub](#), which can be accessed through the main school website, is now the [Student Voice Project](#). The Student Voice Project, is specifically about collecting feedback from students to keep each other safe.

If you would like to know more about Safeguarding at school, there is a wealth of information on the [Safeguarding area of our website](#).

Thank you for your support of your children and the school community. I am looking forward to seeing Year 8 take advantage of the opportunities coming up before the end of term.

Yours sincerely,



Joseph Piper
Assistant Headteacher – Year 8 Lead