



Friday 28 February

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of our Spring Term! It has been great to see our Year 9 students return refreshed, looking smart, and ready for learning. There has been real positivity across the year group, and we are excited for the weeks ahead. This is an important period as students continue to build on their progress and prepare for the next stage of their learning. Over the coming weeks, we will be focusing on key areas such as academic achievement, personal development, and ensuring students make informed choices about their future pathways.

Tutor Time Curriculum

This half term, our tutor time sessions will cover a range of important themes, including:

Discrimination and Prejudice – Understanding the impact and importance of inclusivity.

Celebrating Differences – Encouraging respect and appreciation for diversity.

Neurodiversity – Raising awareness and understanding of different ways people think and learn.

Women's Rights– Exploring historical progress and ongoing challenges.

Digital Literacy – Developing safe and responsible online habits.

Self-Reflection – Reviewing and learning from this term's assessments.

College Assemblies

This week, we are celebrating the fantastic achievements of our students in our five College assemblies. A huge well done to all those who have shown outstanding effort and dedication across Binswood, Blackdown, Croft, Manor, and Park. While academics remain a key priority at school for our Year 9 students, there is also a strong emphasis on the broader aspects of their school life.

We launched our second College Attendance Challenge, which takes place next week, where we challenge each student to make their attendance count and achieve 100% during the week.

Additionally, upcoming charity and community events were highlighted, encouraging students to get involved, represent their College, and support important causes by raising money and awareness. It has been wonderful to recognise and reward the hard work, resilience, and accomplishments of our students, and we look forward to seeing even more success as the term progresses. The Race for Life event will take place on Friday, 21 March. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to come together, get active, and support a great cause. More details on how all our students will take part and contribute will be shared soon. We look forward to seeing all our students as involved as possible!

Year 9 GCSE Options 2025

We are beginning the Year 9 options process, a crucial milestone in your child's education. Making the right choices is essential for their future pathway.

In the lead-up to the Options opening on-line on 1 April, we have several events planned to support students and families, including:

- Year 9 careers event – The Word of Work on 24 March
- Thursday 27 March - A Year 9 Options Assembly with our Deputy Head, Ms. Foy to share student information on Options choices
- Taster Lessons to explore different and new subjects
- The Year 9 Subject & Options Evening on 31 March 2025. A letter with the information re booking appointments will be sent on March 14 and you will be able to book subject evening appointments from Monday 17 March.

These opportunities will help students make informed decisions about their next steps.

Alton Towers Trip

A reminder that on May 21, Year 9 students have the opportunity to attend a trip to Alton Towers as a reward to celebrate those exhibiting positive behaviours both in lessons and as part of the wider school community, based on good attendance and excellent positive behaviour scores.

The cost of this trip is £33 and the method of payment is via ParentPay (www.parentpay.com), the deadline for payment is Friday 14 March 2025.

As we move through this all-important half term, we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, positivity, and effort shown by our Year 9 students. With key events such as the Year 9 Options process and Race for Life ahead, we encourage all students to stay engaged, make the most of all the opportunities we offer, and continue striving for success.

Thank you for your ongoing support—we look forward to another great few weeks together.

With kindest regards,

Alan Boyes