



1 March 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health as we officially welcome the arrival of spring – hopefully the weather will catch up soon. With two weeks already completed this term, again another short one, momentum is high here for many as students continue at pace through their learning journeys. Year 11's and 13's have completed their final mock examinations and head into a key revision period with exams, NEA's and coursework deadlines fast approaching.

As always a signpost please to our school website for any information you may need and the school calendar highlighting key events. Our Year 9 students are now at a crucial stage in their academic journey as they prepare to make their GCSE option choices. I encourage all parents and carers to attend the Year 9 Subject Evening this coming Monday to support your child through this key process. Likewise, Year 11 students have their final Subject Evening on Monday 18 March to support their run in.

I am delighted to share with you that on the 1 March, which coincides with National Offer Day for students in Year 6, our school once again proves to be a popular choice among families. We have received an overwhelming response, with nearly 800 applications received. From these, we have made our full 240 offers with over 400 students selecting us as their first or second choice, classifying the school once again as oversubscribed with a significant waiting list.

Next week we welcome the Loudmouth Theatre production to our school. They will be delivering sessions to our Year 8 and 10 students focusing on healthy relationships and safeguarding. This aligns with our ongoing efforts to equip our students with the knowledge and skills to navigate the complexities of adolescence in a safe and respectful manner.

I would like to wish our first ever cohort of Gold Duke of Edinburgh students well on their expedition next week. This prestigious programme offers invaluable opportunities for personal development, leadership and outdoor exploration and I have every confidence that our students will rise to the challenge and emerge as resilient and well-rounded individuals. An early thank you to the staff who are supporting this brilliant event.

To finish, a continual plea to support your child being on time to school. The gates are open from 8am and we have made significant efforts to make spaces available for students so they can be prepared and ready to start learning at 8:45am. Unfortunately every day a small but significant group of students are late walking in or getting dropped in by parents and carers, inclusive of 6th form students. Being organised and punctual is important, please support your child in getting to school well in advance of Period 1.

Have a great weekend.

Mike Lowdell
Head Teacher