



Newsletter: 06

Last Friday saw the return of our Year 13 students who completed their exams in summer 2019 to receive their certificates at our presentation evening. It is always lovely to welcome back past students and there was a lovely atmosphere as students shared their experiences since leaving school with each other and with staff. It also is the first time each year that Mrs Knight and her team in the kitchen make mince pies – a lovely treat and a reminder that Christmas is approaching. The next few weeks will see lots of festivities including the PTA Christmas Fair, the Carol Service and a special Christmas lunch. Details of the dates are below. In addition to the recap of recent events, in the newsletter this week there is information on attendance, a plea for support in our vibrant LRC and information from the Chair of Governors about the role of the Governing Body.

Y13 Leavers Presentation Evening

What a great evening catching up with our previous students at their A-Level certificate presentation evening. We had such a good turnout and it was lovely for us to be able to see how they have been getting since leaving us here.



Odd Socks Day Tuesday 12 November

Thank you to everyone that took part in Odd Sock Day!

Lots of activities took place in the Space Base to raise awareness of bullying and how we can all help to make a change.



Key dates this term



Fri 29 Nov - Christmas Fair 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Wed 4 Dec - Year 11 Presentation Evening (former Year 11 Students & Parents)

Tue 10 Dec - Christmas Carol Service

Tue 17 Dec – Students Christmas Lunch

Fri 20th December – Term ends at 1pm for students

Attendance Reminders

If you need to report your child as absent from school due to illness, the text notification should include a brief reason for absence. Please note that descriptions such as “illness”, “unwell”, “poorly”, “not feeling great” do not provide sufficient information about the absence.

If your child is off sick for 5 days or more it is a parent/carer’s responsibility to provide medical proof of the absence FAO Attendance Officer. The absence will not be authorised without it. Proof could include a GP’s appointment card, copy of prescription or proof of medication taken. Please note that we are aware that doctor’s do not routinely provide medical certificates, but if a student is absent for 5 days or more there is an expectation that they are ill enough for you to have consulted a medical professional and therefore there should be some proof that the consultation has taken place.

Thank You



To Manor Farm in Wall for offering to donate a Christmas tree for our Main Reception. It’s lovely to have such great support from local businesses.

House Drama Performances



The House Drama event was as chaotic and fantastic as ever. There were fabulous performances from all students taking part across our four houses: Addison, Clinton, Darwin & Garrick.... this year’s winner was Darwin! Well done to everyone who took part and everyone who supported all the writing, organisation and rehearsals.

Library News

Parents – Your Library needs YOU!

The LRC is a very busy and vibrant place, with a large number of students using it especially at lunchtime. There is currently a vacancy for a volunteer parent library helper to come and support Mrs Emery once a fortnight during lunchtime (12.25-1.35) ideally on Tuesdays of week 1.

Anyone with a good rapport with students and a willingness to shelve books is welcome to phone Mrs Emery for a chat.

PSHE



Students take part in PSHE lessons every fortnight with their form tutor. The lessons are designed to support students in managing their lives now and in the future. The next PSHE lesson will take place on Monday 2 December. Students will be considering the following topics:

Year 7 – Body Image

Year 8 – Project on British Values

Year 9 – STI's

Year 10 – Sex and the Law

Year 11 – Importance of sleep (in preparation for their trial exams)

Some students may find these topics sensitive and would appreciate being able to talk to parents about ideas that they have heard about in class.

Sports News

Lots of sports news from the past couple of weeks. We've added a couple of highlights here but to see what our teams have been up to visit their twitter page [here](#)

Congratulations to the U18 Hockey team for being runners-up in the Regional Finals today. A great display of skills, teamwork and determination. Next up is the National finals at Lee Valley



An excellent morning with the u16 netball team on Saturday 9 November. Early start, freezing cold weather conditions but this did not phase the girls. They were determined, worked perfectly as a team & kept their nerve. County champions. An absolute credit. Well done girls, looking forward to Regionals! Thank you also to our wonderful teachers who support with these events.



Extra-Curricular Activities



Please [click here](#) for the full list of our Extra-Curricular Activities

School Governing Body

The Governing Body numbers 13, all of whom, excluding the Headteacher, are volunteers who are elected for a period of four years. Parents, staff and the LEA are represented, and the remainder are co-opted from the local community – usually parents of former students. The Full Governing Board meets a minimum of four times during the school year.

The main functions include involvement in the strategic planning and direction of the school, supporting and challenging; the fulfilment of its statutory responsibilities; the ratification of policies; and receiving sub-committee reports.

There are 3 main sub-committees :-

1 Teaching, Learning and Standards.

This includes reviewing exam results, student trends progress, curriculum policy, quality of teaching and learning, staff development and the impact of Pupil Premium spend.

Meets 6 times per school year.

2 Finance and Strategic leadership.

Responsible inter alia for budget plan and monitoring, leadership and management, pay policy and progression, staffing structure, charging policy and premises oversight and development.

Meets 4 times per school year.

3 Student and staff welfare.

Responsible for monitoring behaviour, safety, staff attendance patterns, student inclusion issues and safeguarding.

Meets 3 times per school year.

There are 4 other smaller committees and we have some governors with links to specific subject heads e.g. English, or specific roles e.g. Business Manager or the School Council.

As a Governing Body we maintain a skills matrix and try to ensure that we have an appropriate mix of skills on the Board.

Chris Cartwright
Chair of Governors

Letters to Parents

Please click [here](#) to access all letters to parents this term.

[School Website](#)

[Follow us on Twitter](#)