

Monday 31st January to Friday 5th February 2022



Headteachers' Blog

General Update

The school feels very positive at the moment, and that is despite our Covid cases creeping up, staff absence a daily headache and the January blues feeling less of a myth for some folks. We certainly have plenty of issues to deal with, a myriad of challenging decisions, and some students that are finding it exceptionally difficult to find a place of calmness. Yet, we are not bowing to these pressures, we are meeting them and finding a way to climb. I tour the school very regularly, and I see strong teaching, calm and focussed students, great relationships, and a sense of purpose.

Long may this continue. It is with your support that this outcome happens – so my thanks to you all at home.

The Tripod is so effective when it works well. For a small band of Yr. 11 parents who joined us at our GCSE Success evening last week, they will have benefitted from some excellent supportive and informative presentations from Mr Rourke and his team. Unfortunately, we could not present this in person, but the advantage is that this work will be added to our website and made available for all Year 11 parents. We had less than 30 attend, which is a real shame, but at least now those that couldn't attend for whatever reason can see the ways in which Year 11 students can be supported as they head toward their GCSE examinations.

If there was any reason in the planning of the event that made it a barrier for parents to attend, I would welcome your feedback.

Site

My campaigning to the DFE to review the exterior provision around our school building has produced one potential positive – some leading figures at the DFE buildings team have asked to visit. The day they offered clashes with some very important safeguarding training I have to attend, so hopefully they will come back to me with some alternative offers. I will let you all know of any outcomes.

Options

We have been listening to feedback following the Year 8 reports that went home and accept that the information was not helpful in giving students and parents a sense of whether particular subjects might be appropriate for GCSE study. To respond to this, we have changed the format of the online options evening on the 10th to give parents access to all teachers of Year 8 to discuss any particular subject possibilities for next year. This differs from a traditional Tripod Evening, in that a student's particular performance in a subject is not the focus, rather their suitability for GCSE/BTEC study.

Have a lovely week everyone, look after yourselves.

Mr Lee-Allan

Year 8 Options Process – Upcoming Events

On **Thursday 3rd of February** there is a Virtual Options Evening starting at 6pm please [CLICK HERE](#) to register. This will talk parents through the process.

Thursday 10th February there will be a virtual parent's evening from 4pm – 6.30pm. Parents can make appointments with subject staff to discuss GCSE subjects. We would recommend accessing the SharePoint page with your child before you make these appointments as some questions that you may have, could be answered on the SharePoint. The link for this SharePoint will be emailed to students. **Please make sure you are aware of your child's teachers when you make your appointments.**

Key dates for Students are:

Tuesday 1st February: Year 8 will attend a GCSE Option Process assembly.

Friday 4th February a SharePoint page will be made available to all students which will contain information about all of the courses that we are offering, and it contains subject specific "Streams" for you to watch.

Monday 7th February – Friday 18th February: subject taster sessions will be available in some subjects during lunchtimes and after school, there will be a timetable of sessions published in the assembly. Students will need to sign up to these sessions.

Friday 18th February - Friday 4th March: The options process will open; this will be accessed through the SharePoint page. We do not allocate subjects on a first come, first served basis so we are giving you time to make this important decision.

Option choices must be made by Friday, 4th March. Students must choose five subjects that they would like to study at GCSE, they will then be offered four of these subjects to study. Due to some timetabling restraints, in some extreme cases we may have to ask your child to choose another subject. We would like students to have a broad and balanced curriculum and we encourage students to pick a variety of subjects from different academic areas.

Emotional Fitness

As you are all aware the school are working hard towards developing our culture around improved emotional fitness. Our next Oasis newsletter will be released the week before half term, and we hope it will help you with strategies and support for both you and your child's well-being.

I wanted to release an NHS flyer in advance of the Oasis publication as the dates are time limited. ***This flyer is attached alongside the Parent Newsletter to enable you to access the links.***

NSFT Psychology in schools team are running zoom based workshops especially for parents. These aim to help you guide and support your child through the emotional roller coaster of teenage life and are specific by topic. The next available one is centred around anxiety.

All workshops are recorded and when I receive the link, I will post this in the Oasis newsletter for you all to access.

Introducing the Head Student's WAM (Worth a Mention)

Each week members of staff will be nominating students who they believe have gone 'Above and Beyond' in school. Maddie and Barnaby will then be choosing who they think should receive a WAM (chocolates and a card).

This week's Head Student WAM goes to Evie Woodger in Year 9. She was nominated by Ms Lee for her work in English.

Congratulations and well-done Evie.



Valentine's Day Event

We will be holding a Valentine's event on Monday 14th February in aid of CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young). CRY's vision is to prevent young sudden cardiac deaths through awareness, screening and research, and supporting affected families.

In the week prior to this students will be given the opportunity to buy small packs of Love Heart Sweets a pack of Haribo Hearts or a sprinkle of heart shaped confetti. They can add a message to these gifts, and we will arrange for them to be delivered to 'their valentine' during the school day. All profits will be donated to CRY.

Additionally, we will also have a non-school uniform day on the last day of this half term (Friday 18th February). If you have not already done so, please can you ensure your child has paid for their non-uniform days via Parent Pay as this also contributes to the charities throughout the year who receive our donations.



Dates for your Calendar

Tuesday 1st February – Yr 11 Planning & Organising for Success 6.00pm – 6.30pm

Thursday 3rd February – Yr. 7 Frankenstein – Theatre Trip, B.S.E.

Thursday 3rd February – Year 8 Virtual Options Evening Talk - 6pm – 7pm

Thursday 10th February – GCSE Options Evening – Details to follow shortly

Monday 14th February – Yr. 11 Pre's Start

Friday 18th February – Non-uniform Day

Monday 21st February – Half Term



Useful Contact Information:

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To report a student absence for any reason, ***including positive Covid test results*** - please call **01449 613541** and select option: 1