



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

17th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It was an honour that last Sunday I was invited, along with two of our senior students to read aloud the names of the fallen from Portishead at the Remembrance Day Parade. Thank you to all our students involved in the parade and representing themselves so impressively during such an important community event.

INSET Day

A reminder that Wednesday 22nd November is an INSET day. Therefore, the school is closed to students that day.

Year 11 (and Year 10 Religious Studies students)

As you will be aware, the Mock Exams begin, the week beginning **Monday 27 November**. Please check the **ClassCharts** announcement sent by Mr Beesley with regards to the logistics of the fortnight, as well as where to find resources to support students' revision, well-being and preparation.

Year 10 Work Experience

Thank you to parents who have supported students to organise their work experience places already; we know from experience that these always take longer to organise than students expect. The Careers team have been sending out emails with details of organisations offering work experience to students, please encourage students to engage with Unifrog applications. Students can access our Careers Advisors in their office at break and lunchtimes.

Placements are trickling in, but it would be nice if we could have a bit of a push before the end of term.

Year 7 and Year 8 Learning Updates:

If you are a parent of a child in Year 7 or Year 8, you will receive a Learning Update in the coming week from Mr Snow with news about how our youngest students have been progressing with their studies in the first quarter of the school year.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Careers: Teatime Networking

We had a very successful Teatime Networking session focussing on the Finance Industry on Wednesday evening after school. Representatives from Mercer Marsh Benefits, Deloitte, RSM Finance, Evelyn and Partners, Exeter University and our own Natalie Fear talked to students from Year 9 to 13 about their what it is like to work in that sector and in their relative companies covering topics such as how the business works, different routes into the profession, apprenticeships, Degree level routes and work experience. It was a great evening and students found it really helpful.

RAG funds

Thank you for supporting Sixth Form's RAG Week before half term; our students' efforts have raised over £3,000 for our twinned schools in Kenya (Mend the Gap) and Cancer Research.

Sexual Health Project

The School Nursing Service is currently undertaking a sexual health project in collaboration with Barnardo's with a goal of improving outcomes for our young people across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. The initial stage of the project involves distributing a survey to young people in secondary school who are currently in year 9 or above. The survey is totally voluntary – and students are not required to complete it. The survey is particularly interested in students' knowledge of the C Card Scheme.

We will share the survey with students at the end of the month, and Barnardo's are then looking for Year 12 student volunteers to form a student voice focus group; we will be asking for volunteers.

Uniform

Thank you for your continued support with uniform. In the last couple of weeks, we have seen an increase in the number of students wearing the sports hoodies with their formal uniform. Please can you ensure that your child is wearing their blazer with their formal uniform. We can appreciate that the temperatures have decreased, however students should wear coats and not hoodies to keep themselves dry and warm during this period.

Save the Date

One of our Year 11 students, as part of their fundraising for World Challenge will be hosting a Christmas Wreath Making evening at the school on Monday 11th December, between 7 - 9pm in the main hall. Further details will follow shortly on ParentPay, but it promises to be a lovely festive event.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 2

Wed 22nd Nov: INSET DAY 4

Thu 23rd Nov: Year 8 Progress Evening, 4.00 – 7.30pm

Mon 27th Nov: Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 28th Nov: Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 5th Dec: Parent Forum, 6.00 – 7.00pm in CR1

Wed 6th Dec: Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam

Thu 7th Dec: Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam

Tue 12th Dec: Sixth Form Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall

Tue 12th Dec: Christmas Concert, 6.30 – 9.00pm in the Main Hall

Wed 13th Dec: Year 7 – 11 Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall

Wed 13th Dec: Christmas Concert, 6.30 – 9.00pm in the Main Hall

Mon 18th Dec: School Production all-day rehearsal (8.40 – 5.30) in the Main Hall

Wed 20th Dec: Last day of term – 12.30 finish for students