



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

8th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I cannot tell you the Buzz that has surrounded the school this week as our students and staff put on the show of shows in their rendition of 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'. The feedback has been incredible in terms of what our young people and staff have achieved here, and I am immensely proud of them all. The hours and hours of dedication and practice over the last year from conception to completion is admirable and I would like to thank everyone involved in creating such a wonderful production. There is nowhere else I would rather be than spending tonight watching the final show! Memories have clearly been made that will last a lifetime...

This week our English team invited in a Theatre Company to do a performance of Romeo and Juliet for the whole of Year 7 on World Book Day. The students were fantastic, and I would like to thank our English Department for their organisation of this event.

We are reminding students this week of the importance of going to the Student Centre if they are feeling unwell or have another issue. It is vital that students do not contact home directly, nor parents turn up to school without having spoken to a member of school staff first as this circumnavigates our procedures and can cause confusion. If you have a concern about your child during the school day, please contact Main Reception in the first instance. If we need you to come and collect your child, we will contact you.

Aspens Catering updates.

We are using all your feedback from the surveys with Aspens to work on developing their offer in school. Thank you to all parents and students that contributed thoughts through this. Some of the key current working points:

- Aspens are working on updates to all the information on the school website, with the correct menu offer including more of the nutritional content info.
- Reducing the waste from the offer, specifically we are developing the number and locations of our water fountains, and the refillable drinks items offered from Aspens. We are looking at how we can phase out the cartons of juice, water and milkshake as they are a huge rubbish/litter issue in school.
- We have looked closely at the requests made for menu items in the survey, and the sales data from Aspens. Aspens are working on this and will be coming back with their plan for responding to this.

We will keep updating you on progress and when key information is posted on the website.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

GCSEPod is now available to use!

Year 11 students have been able to trial the revision and learning software and they can now create an account to access the resources. This is available online, so accessible through a computer or mobile device. Please follow the instructions sent via ClassCharts.

Careers:

Tea-time Networking

It was lovely to see year 9-13 students at the Teatime Networking Session on Wednesday. This session concentrated on Health Careers including Dentistry and Nursing. Future events are publicised on our careers newsletter and shared with students during Monday broadcasts.

Year 8 Guided Choices Evening

A reminder to all Year 8 parents that our guided choices evening takes place on Thursday 14th March from 4pm-7.30pm.

Year 10 Work Experience and Mock Interviews:

Please remind your son or daughter to confirm their work experience placement on Unifrog or to go to our Careers Office if they need assistance. We now have over 200 students with placements and aim to have the whole year group out of school for Activities Week in July.

We also continue to hear glowing feedback from the employers who conducted the mock interview for our Year 10 students last week:

Edwards: *“Edwards have attended the Mock Interview Day for a number of years now and we are consistently impressed with the school’s and students’ preparation towards it. The standard of CVs is great, and it is fantastic to see a school making this learning a priority for their students. The students themselves are great to talk to and we really do feel we make a difference for them in the short amount of time they have with us.”*

On Site Bristol: *The event was well organised, and I was really impressed by the calibre of interviews! You have some incredible students. Polite, confident and passionate about their futures!*

Baker Hughes: *I would like to say thank you for organising this event as I found it an extremely enjoyable experience, and I look forwards to attending next year. The students I had the pleasure of interviewing were all both incredibly mature and articulate, not to mention more prepared than some of the adults I’ve interviewed in the past! The level of the clarity with which they could describe not just the activities they’d completed, but the various stages (design, implementation and review) of a project showed a real depth of learning and understanding that should prepare them well for the bright futures that I’m sure are ahead of them.*

Consultation of 32.5 hours per week from September 2024

Overview

We would like to obtain your views on proposed changes to the timings of the school day from September 2024.

A Summary of the Consultation

The change of school day timings is a direct response to the Government's expectation that schools are open for 32.5 hours per week from September 2024. Please see the [DFE guidance](#) here. From September 2024 we wish to extend the school day 4-days a week so that our students will start at 8:40am instead of the current time of 8.45am Monday through to Thursday. Friday's timings will remain the same. An additional 5 minutes will be added to tutor time in order to deepen the quality of our pastoral care as well as maintain our tutor reading programme. If you would like to respond to the consultation, then please give your feedback using [this form](#).

Responses to the consultation will be collated and discussed. The consultation runs for a 6-week period, from 1st March 2024 to 12th April 2024.

Bikeability Holiday Courses

Life Cycle are offering free Bikeability courses for Year 7 - 9 students during the Easter holidays. Find more information and book your space [here](#).

Wishing you a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 4

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| Monday 11th March | Year 13 A-Level Music Recital Exam |
| Thursday 14th March | 4pm - 7.30pm Year 8 Key Stage 4 Guided Choices Evening |
| Friday 15th March | Sixth Form Photo |
| Monday 18th - Friday 22nd March | Year 11 DT Mock Exam Week |
| Monday 18th - Friday 22nd March | Book Fair in the School Library |
| Tuesday 19th - Wednesday 20th March | Easter Concert |
| Thursday 21st March | 5.30pm - 7pm Post-18 Apprenticeship Meeting |
| Friday 22nd March | Year 11 School Photos |
| Friday 22nd March | Sixth Form option choices confirmed to Year 11 students |
| Friday 22nd March | A-Level Music Trip to BBC Concert (all day) |
| Sunday 24th March | Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Training Day |
| Monday 25th - Wednesday 27th March | Year 10 GCSE Drama Performance Exam |
| Tuesday 26th March | 6pm - 7pm Parent Forum |
| Thursday 28th March | Last Day of Term - Non-uniform day for students |
| Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April | EASTER HOLIDAY |