

24th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

On Monday night I attended the performance of 'Down the Rabbit Hole'. This Sixth Form elective project culminated in a fantastic performance of an original musical created and directed by Caitlin Jacobs (Year 13) and the elective team. The musical was a back story to the Queen of Hearts from Alice in Wonderland where we learnt how she became the evil queen we know her as today. We saw 40 students of Years 8-13 shine in their various roles of performer, band, technical designer and backstage crew. Thank you to those parents who came to watch - I am sure you will agree that the talent at our school is incredible.



Mobile Phone policy

You may be aware of guidelines produced in February by the Department of Education on the use of mobile phones in schools; in light of these guidelines, we are reviewing our current policy. Please note that this is the initial stage in a review of mobile phone use in school. We understand that any change to our policy (which can be found [here](#), page 5 and should be viewed alongside our [Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement](#)) would need to be a community effort and, as such, are seeking the views of parents, staff and students before exploring and implementing any changes. Please respond to [this short survey](#) so we can gather feedback.

Year 12 Trip to UWE - 22nd May 2024

We are proud with the way our Year 12 business students conducted themselves on the trip to the University of the West of England (UWE), a trip arranged in collaboration with our other LSP Sixth Forms. This proved an incredible opportunity to explore the idea of entrepreneurship, improve networking skills with other business students and to gain an insight into the pathway of higher education. The experience was invaluable in gaining employability skills to both inform and inspire future careers.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Year 10 - Change to homework policy

As Year 11 are now on study leave, Year 10 are 'stepping up' into their final year of school. As part of this, the homework policy will change as outlined below. Some subjects may have adopted this approach already and it will be uniform after half-term. This will be shared with Year 10 in their first assembly back after half-term.

Year 11 students: homework is set across the fortnight (weekly or fortnightly to suit the member of staff), on ClassCharts, with a deadline for completion of 7 days or more. Year 11 should only be set revision tasks that support their exam preparation in the three weeks leading up to and during mocks (except in instances where they are completing Non-Exam Assessed components of their courses).

Year 11 and 13 Exams

We wish Year 11 and 13 a restful half-term in amongst their continued efforts with revision. We continue to be impressed by the way both of these year groups have approached their revision and exams; they are excellent role models for the younger year groups, particularly Years 10 and 12 as they prepare for their Term 6 mocks.

Equipment and Uniform

The start of a new term is always a good opportunity for a reset of expectations. Please can all students ensure they are ready for learning with at least the basic equipment from the first day back (pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, calculator). Tutors will carry out an equipment check on Monday morning, alongside uniform checks. Students should be wearing blazers unless the weather is warm enough for them to keep them in their bags (they should still have them with them; we know how British weather can behave!)

Keeping Students Safe and Supported

We hope that the half-term break allows students - and their families - to recharge after a busy school term, and that those with exams to study for continue to receive support from those around them. We are grateful for the support our pastoral team, counsellors and external providers such as OTR and Kooth, continue to give our students and Mental Health Awareness Week activities allowed us to share strategies to support our wellbeing.

The following resource may also be useful:

[Staying mentally healthy during exams | Resources | YoungMinds](#)

We also share the following contact details for families to access while school is closed for the break. If you are worried about your, or someone else's mental health, and want to access support straight away, please try the following helplines or webchats:

Samaritans - call them for free from any phone 24/7 for emotional support on 116 123

Shout - if you're experiencing a personal crisis, are unable to cope and need support, text Shout to 85258 for free, 24/7

Childline - call them for free 24/7 on 0800 1111 or go to the website for a 1-2-1 webchat with a counsellor.

HOPELINEUK for confidential support and practical advice on suicidal thoughts and feelings call 0800 068 4141. HOPELINE UK are open 9am-10pm weekdays, 2pm-10pm weekends.

KOOTH - an online counselling service for people aged 5-16, go to [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com), available Monday to Friday midday - 10pm, Saturday & Sunday 6pm - 10pm.

CAMHS Crisis Line - 0800 953 9599

If you need to speak to **Childrens Social Care**- please contact the front door service on 01275 888808.

If a life is at risk, please call **999** to access support from emergency services.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful half-term break.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 6

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th June	Year 10 MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Tuesday 4th - Wednesday 5th June	Year 12 Textiles Mock Exam
Tuesday 4th - Wednesday 5th June	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Qualifying Expedition - Group 2
Thursday 6 th - Friday 7th June	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Qualifying Expedition - Group 1
Monday 10th - Friday 14th June	Year 12 Mock Exams Week
Tuesday 11th June	6.00 - 7.00 Cromarty House Celebration Evening
Wednesday 12th June	6.00 - 7.00 Fitzroy House Celebration Evening
Thursday 13th June	6.00 - 7.00 Biscay House Celebration Evening
Monday 17th - Friday 21st June	Year 12 MFL Speaking Mock Exams Week
Monday 17th - Friday 28th June	Year 10 Mock Exams Weeks
Tuesday 18th June	6.00 - 7.00 Portland House Celebration Evening
Wednesday 19th June	6.00 - 7.00 Shannon House Celebration Evening
Thursday 20th June	6.00 - 7.00 Lundy House Celebration Evening
Friday 21st June	9.00 - 12.00 Swimming Gala
Monday 24th - Friday 28th June	Year 12 Bridging Week
Monday 24th June	Year 11 Prom
Wednesday 26th June	Year 13 Clearing Day
Thursday 27th June	Year 13 Ball
Friday 28th June	Year 12 A-level Music Recital mock exam (all day)
Monday 1st - Friday 5th July	Activities Week Year 12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition Year 10 Work Experience Year 12 Futures Week
Tuesday 9th July	Year 6 Induction Day
Tuesday 9th July	Parent Forum
Wednesday 10th July	6pm - 7pm DT & Computing Celebration Evening
Thursday 11th July	Sports Day (pm)
Thursday 11th July	Year 12 A-level Music Recital (mock exam)

Friday 12th - Sunday 14th July	Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition
Wednesday 17th - Thursday 18th July	Creative Arts Festival
Thursday 18th July	Reserve date for Sports Day
Tuesday 23rd July	Last day of term for students - 12:30 finish
Wednesday 24th July - Tuesday 3rd September	SUMMER HOLIDAY