



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

10th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this email finds you well.

I would like to say a huge congratulations and state how impressed we have been with our Year 11 Students (and Year 10 Ethics students) who have been sitting their mock exams this week. It has been a positive experience for all involved, with the invigilators commenting on how well the students have behaved when waiting for our procedures to take place and during the exams themselves.

We look forward to the start of the summer exam season on **Monday 15 May 2023**. We will share summer timetables with students as soon as they are available. In terms of timings, this is 7 school weeks away. Please ensure Year 11 students continue to be organised, focus their revision on the appropriate areas and plan their time effectively.

- Year 11 will have a **Celebration Day on Friday 12 May**, which is organised by the House teams. They will then either be in external exams or following their normal timetable until **Friday 26 May**.
- There will be additional support sessions from **Monday 5 June**, however students do not need to attend timetabled lessons from this point onwards.
- Year 12 Bridging week is from **Monday 26 June**
- Year 11 Prom – is **Tuesday 27 June** (more details to follow soon)
- **Weds 28 June** – is officially the 'exam contingency day' for any disruption to the exam season.

Dropping off and picking up

Many thanks to all parents for their continued support in ensuring safety and consideration around the school and in neighbouring streets at the start and end of the school day. Can we ask that all parents remember that the neighbourhood policing team have stated that it is an offence to stop at all in the bus stop on St Marys Road. We have also had some contact from the public about vehicles entering and exiting the drop off point on Clevedon Road: please ensure that you are aware of pedestrians on the pavement there, it is a route to school for many primary school children.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

The 13th to 19th of March is National Neurodiversity Celebration week. Students will have an assembly to continue our work to raise awareness of the 'hidden' differences that neurodiversity brings. A theme of awareness, thoughtfulness and kindness will run through the message. The presentation will also be posted on Class Charts for any student who misses it, or for parents who would like to see it.

Chris Hemmings' Talks

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, Chris Hemmings came into school to talk to Years 8-13 and carry out workshops with Year 7. The focus was on highlighting some of the issues that exist relating to pressures on boys to behave in certain ways, which can ultimately be damaging to them and others around them. Chris works with lots of schools and businesses on this topic. He is a trained Psychotherapist as well as published author.

Arranging for a speaker to come in and talk on a topic that by its very nature has elements which could be considered contentious is a risk, in the sense that a message will never land the same way for all students. We also know that some of Chris' messages were hard at times for some students to hear. To this end, we asked Chris to deliver a parent talk on Tuesday evening so that the message that he had delivered to students could be contextualised for you as parents to support the inevitable discussions it would raise with your children. You can view a recording of the parent talk to support this discussion and address any concerns <https://vimeo.com/806714158>. Chris also ran a session for staff to help us understand why some of these behaviours exist and to provide guidance on supporting our young people in understanding the consequence/implications of negative behaviour towards others.

Since Chris' talk when he spoke so openly about male wellbeing, we have already had some male students come forward to seek assistance with their mental health; we now wish to grow a space to explore these discussions. We are asking all students to complete a survey to enable them to express their thoughts on the issues raised, should they wish to, so we can fully engage students with how we navigate the topics raised as a school community. We are also planning to set up student and staff focus groups to support this work further.

If you have any further feedback following conversations with your child at home, or any questions relating to this focus, please do so via this form. We will then be able to collate and respond, FAQ style.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wwKbEeKstEKPNGL1svSOdHUKsNqM46hFrVpoGmWNGoRUMFdXSzVJSkdGV1NZRUtVUTkyVjBPMjlfQI4u>

Yours sincerely



Headteacher