

head'sherald

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well. We have had a very full and exciting week which I am sure you will have seen through all our social media posts. Please do follow us on Facebook and Instagram as this is the most immediate way we can get news to you. Our students never cease to amaze us.

Remembrance

We held our Remembrance Service in the School Hall yesterday and it was a pleasure to welcome back our Old Boys and former students from the armed services. It was a very moving service and our students were incredibly respectful. Thank you to our Chaplain Mike Wildsmith for leading such a lovely service.

Careers Fair

Our Careers Fair took place today for Years 8, 9, 10 and 11. We had over 20 stands for our students to explore. The feedback so far from our students has been really positive "it is great to be able to have face to face conversations about our future with people from the areas we are interested in".

Anti-bullying Week

Monday 15th November is Odd Socks Day. Odd Socks Day is an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves, celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! It takes place on the first day of Anti-Bullying Week. Please encourage your child to wear odd socks on Monday. Voluntary donations for the Anti-Bullying Alliance can be left in the buckets in the foyer as students arrive to school.

SEND Parent Group Meetings

All SEND Parents are welcome to attend our tea party on Monday 29th November running from 3:00pm-4:30pm in the School Library.

We also have a SEND Leadership Meeting taking place with Parents on Monday 6th December 2021. Appointments will need to be booked for this meeting and more details will follow in the coming weeks but please save the date in your diary for now should you wish to attend.

Parents Supporting Boteler (PSB)

There is a Parents Supporting Boteler meeting is taking place on Monday 15th November at 5:30pm in the School Hall.

Parents Supporting Boteler Christmas Fayre

I would like to share with all parents and carers advance notice of the PSB Christmas Fayre on Friday 10th December from 3pm-5pm. There will be many stalls selling new and used items plus many games/raffles to get you and your family into the Christmas spirit. Siblings are welcome to attend too. More information will be shared nearer the time but we know how busy December can be so would really appreciate it if you noted this date in your diary and come along to support this event.

Boteler's Got Talent (BGT)

Miss Dowling and Mr Willcock are hosting BGT this year on the last day of term before Christmas. Please encourage your child to sign up and showcase their talents before Friday 19th November. They can sign up by seeing Miss Dowling in the BSB or Mr Willcock in the Pastoral Office.

Schools Infection Survey 2

The Schools Infection Survey team came into school yesterday (Thursday 11th November) to test all of the students who had signed up to the programme. If you registered your child for this first round of testing then they are automatically registered for future rounds of testing. As always, we will share the dates with you in advance. If your child did not take part in round 1 of testing but you would like them to take part in round 2, please follow the links below for more information on the programme and how to register. If you have signed your child up but no longer want them to take part, please contact the helpline to cancel your registration on 08081961270 or covid-19@ons.gov.uk

<https://tinyurl.com/stbsisparent>

<https://tinyurl.com/stbsisletter>

COVID-19 LFD Testing

We currently have 3 students who have tested positive for COVID-19 bringing the total cases to 54 from the start of term. Can you please continue to encourage regular hand washing and test your child twice weekly using the LFD kits provided by school. Also, please record your results even if it's negative or void on both the government and the school forms:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

<https://tinyurl.com/stbcovidresults>

Neighbourhood Consultations

Thank you to parents and carers who attended round 1 of the Central 6 Streets plan consultation. Round 2 is taking place in person at the Grange social club on Wednesday 1st December. If you are unable to attend in person but would like to take part you can join the online consultation on Thursday 2nd December. The link to the online consultation is on the flyer below.

<https://bit.ly/3mLWafH>

Year 11 Mock Exams

Over the year's students have asked what are the point of Mock Exams and do they really matter? My response to this is that there is every point to them and yes, they really do matter. As a result of traditional exams being cancelled over the last two years due to the Pandemic, Mock exams have formed a significant part of the evidence used to award Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs).

The government are determined that exams set and marked by the exam boards will go ahead this summer. However, they have confirmed a Plan B which was announced on Thursday 12th November that if exams were cancelled again this summer, then internal assessments such as mock exams would be used as evidence for teachers to award grades in a similar way to what happened last year.

In addition to Mock Exams potentially being an evidence base for TAGs, they also play a very important part in helping students improve their exam performance. Testing yourself is an effective way to improve your knowledge and ability to recall information. In a study on Mock Exams, researchers found that students who did a practice test after a period of revision did better on the final exam than those students who didn't do the mock exam and had just spent the whole time revising.

Instead of our students seeing an exam as a potentially threatening event or as some sort of judgement on their ability, we want them to see their Mock Exams as a handy way of improving their knowledge and memory.

Also, if students have a particularly bad mock exam, better to have the shock in the mock, than the final exam. It can act as a call to action that perhaps they need to do more work, change revision strategies and develop skills needed to perform under pressure.

Pressure can do funny things to students. For some, it can lead to nerves, anxiety, frustration and silly mistakes, culminating in a poor exam performance. For others, pressure allows them to concentrate more, work harder and perform better. It takes time and practice to perform well under pressure. If the final summer exams are the first time students experience these conditions, it is lottery as to how they react.

Being comfortable and confident enough to ask someone else for help, be it a teacher, parent or carer, is a big part of having a growth mind-set. Mock exams can be used as a way of getting students to feel comfortable receiving feedback, which paves the way for further improvement and learning.

Year 11 will be sitting their Mock Exams from Monday 29th November to Friday 10th December. All students have been issued with their Mock Exam Timetables and should be referring to these at home, looking at the order the exams take place and helping shape and sequence their revision. Year 11 should be spending significant time at home revising and preparing for these exams. Mr Kinsey and Mr Koltan delivered a revision assembly to the year group on return from half term. We will be having our Mock Exams results afternoon on Friday 7th January which is followed by Year 11 parents' evening on Monday 11th January on School cloud where teachers will be discussing your child's mock performance and what they need to do to improve further.

Good luck in your Mock Exams Year 11!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions and have a lovely weekend.

With very best wishes



Beverley Scott –Herron
Headteacher