



Parental Bulletin

22nd – 26th October

Dear Parent/Carer,

Well half term is nearly upon us! We have had an exciting week this week with our Careers Evening. Almost all of our Year 11s were able to make it with over 20 providers from across the region – our biggest Careers event ever! Our careers programme is going from strength to strength now as we have entered into a partnership with the University of Wolverhampton who are providing us with a wealth of opportunities for students of all year groups so watch this space for more news on our growing careers programme.

We also started up our 'Period 7' intervention programme for Year 11. Whilst this seems somewhat early for preparation for their exams, actually we feel that means we can be much more targeted and focused about particular improvements in particular subjects so that students can make the most possible progress at the right times. This programme is by invitation and strictly planned and scheduled, but there are plenty of other opportunities for students to work with the class teachers at breaks and lunchtimes to catch up a little more.

To add to that, for all year groups, we have acquired an online learning platform: SAM Learning and will be sending out a letter next week with information about logging on and getting started using that. This covers almost all of our subject areas from Year 7 to Year 11 (and beyond!) and will mean that there is always a package of supportive learning activities for your son or daughter to build their learning power.

Next week we welcome our Year 7 parents in for our Settling In evening on Wednesday before our Enrichment day on Thursday. In our enrichment day most year 7 students are visiting Think Tank; Year 8 and 9 are doing some crime awareness and prevention workshops; Year 10 are focusing on learning about the Holocaust (with a trip to the Holocaust centre) and Year 11 will be doing some Mock exam preparation. Finally on Friday we have a non-uniform day: please help us to ensure that, whilst students are allowed some freedom of choice on that day, they must still remain appropriately dressed.

A final note for Year 10 parents – on the Enrichment Day on Thursday, for those students who are studying at school, we would like students to be able to watch 'Schindler's List' as this is a powerful film with some extraordinarily important learning points regarding the Holocaust. However, this film is certificate 15 and, whilst it is legal for schools to show appropriate films that meet curriculum demand out of certified age, our policy is to seek permission from parents to do this. We do have some other films that, whilst not so powerful, are also extremely valuable so all students will have a similar experience if you feel that Schindler's list is not age appropriate for your child in this context. A letter detailing this will be going out to all relevant students in year 10 seeking permission to watch this amazing film.

Have a great weekend – one more week to go before the break!

Yours faithfully

Tom Macdonald



Headteacher

Calendar for the week

Monday 22nd	Year 7 Assembly – Shoebox appeal
Tuesday 23rd	
Wednesday 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 7 Settling Evening 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm
Thursday 25 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enrichment Day 1
Friday 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">End of Half term– Non Uniform day: FULL House Colours £1/Non Uniform £2
Assembly Topic	Shoebox Appeal & year group focused assemblies

Week commencing 5th November (subject to update)

Monday 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mock exams start until 16th November
Tuesday 6 th	
Wednesday 7 th	
Thursday 8 th	
Friday 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remembrance Commemoration - 9th November
Advance Notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ski Trip Parents Meeting 6pm - 7pm (Refectory) 14th November



- **SCHOOL ORCHESTRA** - Anyone that plays an instrument are welcome to join the school orchestra. You need to be grade 3 and above ideally. It is on Thursdays 3.10-4pm in the Music room. Just turn up with your instrument. It is fun and a great opportunity to progress in Music and make new friends.
- **DRUM LESSONS** - Anyone interested in Drum lessons please see Mr Cotterill ASAP. There is one Drum lesson slot available. This is taught by Dudley Performing Arts within school.
- **PTA** – Next Meeting: 21st November. 5.00 pm-6.00 pm in the Refectory – everyone welcome
- **PARKING** – at the end of the day (and to a lesser extent, the start) parking and pick up can be extremely challenging on Water Street. Furthermore, some cars are waiting in front of resident driveway entrances and in areas marked for no parking or no stopping. This creates a challenge for the school in three ways: first, in regards to safety – the traffic jam created represents an increased risk to the 900 students leaving from this entrance at 3.10pm as parents mount curbs and make efforts to negotiate the busy road; our local community get increasingly frustrated as cars block their driveways; and all of our parents who must pick up students via car have significant delay in negotiating this street. I must ask, therefore, that parents do not park in restricted areas, on curbs or in front of driveways. Please do not be offended if a member of staff politely asks you to move should you find yourself in this situation. I would encourage parents to park/wait on neighbouring streets where possible to alleviate traffic and so reduce the risk to our students.

Update – Traffic Wardens have recently been seen issuing tickets to illegally parked cars on Water Street!

- **ABSENCE** - If your child is going to be absent from school, can you please contact the school before 9:30 am, where possible. There is a designated absence line for attendance, please call 01384 296596 and press option one, record message and press # to finish, then follow the prompts to save the message.
- **BIKES** – we are concerned that some of our students are travelling on bikes in ways which we consider are unsafe. Most are not wearing helmets, many cycle on the pavements, many do not have lights as the nights close in and some have bikes which are not roadworthy. We will be looking at how we can encourage safer approaches in the coming weeks and hope that you will work with us on ensuring our young people stay safe.