



Parental Bulletin

5th – 9th November 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I do hope you all have a good break over the next week – it has been a long half term and our students have worked really hard so it is well deserved.

I won't go on too long in this message other than to wish you a happy holiday, as we have written a newsletter for the half term and will email that out to you as well. I will just take the chance to highlight one minor 'event' that you may see through the start of the next half term – Movember!

Whilst our Y11 students will be busying their way through their Mock exams and the rest of our students will be getting towards their first formal assessments, our staff (or at least some of us) will be growing moustaches and beards to raise awareness of Men's health issues through the Movember campaign. Students are welcome to join in and grow their own moustache's through the month, or just wear a fake moustache on the last day of the month – but I hope that we can have a little fun and raise some money and awareness for this wonderful charity. Please, then, excuse any of our staff who have a slightly unshaven look through the next month – this is with a good cause in mind!

Enjoy your break

Yours faithfully

Tom Macdonald
Headteacher



Calendar for the week

Monday 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mock exams start 5th - 16th November• Abbreviated day (extended form time 30 minutes)• PASS testing in form time/Wreath making
Tuesday 6 th	
Wednesday 7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dance performance (Refectory, Y7 forms, 8.40am)
Thursday 8 th	
Friday 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remembrance Day - Abbreviated Day (30 minutes)
Assembly Topic	N/A (Mock exam)

Week commencing 12th November (subject to update)

Monday 12 th	
Tuesday 13 th	
Wednesday 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ski Trip Parents Meeting 6pm - 7pm (Refectory)
Thursday 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• World Skills UK Live Y10 9-3pm
Friday 16 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Senate Summit
Advance Notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 12 Presentation Evening 22nd November 5.00 pm – 7.30 pm



- **GREASE** – reminder that rehearsals for the main cast will be taking place Tuesday - Friday lunchtimes. There will be an extra rehearsal for the main cast at school during half term in the Drama studio on **Thursday 1st November 2018 9.30am-1pm**. Students will need to bring packed lunch/snacks and a drink.
- **PTA** – Next Meeting: 21st of November. 5.00pm-6.00pm in the Refectory – all welcome. 22 Parents have so far expressed an interest and we would welcome even more parents getting involved.
- **Christmas Cards** - Over the next few weeks parents and carers will have the opportunity to purchase a pack of Christmas cards that their child has designed during their Art lessons (Years 7, 8 and 9). We have been very impressed with the designs and have enjoyed watching the students explore personal ideas connected to the festive season. Students will be issued with order forms that explain how to order the cards. All online orders must be completed before Tuesday 13th November 2018.
- **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.

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.
- **YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS** – if you have a son or daughter in year 11 please support them in their preparations for their Mock exams. These are a great opportunity for students to practice and prepare for the real thing and we hope all Y11 students will take the chance to revise thoroughly over the half term. A good time, too, to explore the new SAM learning platform online – passwords have been given out this week.