

September 2021

Headlines

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back! I do hope you all enjoyed a restful summer holiday and managed to catch some sunshine! This is just a brief Headlines to update you on the start of our new school year which has been fantastic.

You may have heard that we were honoured to receive a visit from the Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer and the Shadow Education Secretary Kate Green for our exam results day. Our students were a credit to the school, speaking articulately to Sir Keir about their experience of lockdown and their future plans. We also ran a brilliant free holiday club for our Year 6 students, and they used the opportunity to interview Sir Keir with such confidence!

At the start of this term the lateral flow testing went extremely smoothly thanks to our fabulous support staff team; we managed to have everyone tested before their first day in school and Year 7 were re-tested last week. We would ask that you continue to ensure that students test twice weekly for the foreseeable future as this is one of the best ways of keeping everyone safe. We are also continuing our usual rigorous routines such as hand sanitising and cleaning.

We were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 cohort on their first day, Friday 3 September, looking immaculate in their uniform along with our new student leaders. The day was packed with fun, team games and healthy competition in our Houses and students were introduced to our character virtues of Honesty, Integrity, Compassion, Courage, Generosity, Gratitude, Personal Responsibility, Resilience and Self-Discipline. All the students participated and showed great teamwork and sportsmanship.

On Monday 6 September we welcomed back the rest of the school – it was lovely to be able to hold House assemblies for the first time in almost two years. Once again, the students looked really smart in their uniforms, and I would like to thank parents for their support with that. We also rehearsed our fire and lockdown procedures. Unfortunately, the school photographer was unable to attend to take our official annual photos and therefore this has been postponed to later in the term.

Year 7 enjoyed sessions delivered by 'Talk the Talk' on Tuesday 7 September where they developed their oracy skills; by the end of the sessions everyone was able to deliver a short speech independently and we identified some oracy champions. In addition, Mr Roke, (our amazing drama teacher), supported by Miss Kellar led some drama sessions based around our character virtues. Additional sessions were delivered on 'How to revise' and 'Use of the Knowledge Organiser'. Years 8 to 11 had sessions on revision techniques, resilience and exam preparation as well as sessions to support their wellbeing. Year 7 have been involved in CATS testing to enable us to ensure they are following the appropriate curriculum. From this, students have now been allocated to pathways where we believe they will thrive and make excellent progress.

We have held our Duke of Edinburgh introductory meeting for new participants; this is an excellent award which is highly regarded by employers and life changing for the young people involved. We wish all our students every success in their new venture.

It has been an action-packed start to the term but a really positive one. Thank you for all your support and positive comments; they really are appreciated. I look forward to working in partnership with you again this year as we continue our journey to be an outstanding school of first choice at the heart of our local community.

S. Bareham

Mrs Bareham
Headteacher

