



19th July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another very busy and fast-paced year for students and staff! The successful Ofsted inspection at the beginning of the academic year set the tone for the year ahead and we were pleased to maintain our "Good" rating, however our focus must be on ensuring that we continue our journey to "Outstanding". We have high hopes for our Year 11 and Year 13 students who exceeded our expectations with their work ethic and will be receiving their GCSE and A Level results in August.

The Leavers events were huge successes and we are privileged to have welcomed Tara Robertson, an Invictus athlete, and Jarvis Edobar a professional footballer, as guest speakers who shared their stories to motivate and inspire our departing students.

Mrs Bedwell outdid herself once again by organising an incredible prom for Year 11 (a cd of photos will be shared with Year 11 students on results day!) and our departing Head Girl, Jess Arnold did a wonderful job of putting together the Year 13 prom. The Sixth form "Big Quiz" event raised over £250 for Alexander Devine and we look forward to the "Big Christmas Quiz" held in December!

Sports Day (which was spread over 3 days!) was a huge success and it was incredible to see so many students participating in events and winning points for their house. It was a close competition, but I can confirm that Bannister was the victorious house. The overall House Winners for the year were Hawking. Well done everyone!

We have an unprecedented number of students who have achieved the awards this year: 251 Bronze winners, 198 Silver, 125 Gold and 54 Governor Award winners. In addition, 75 students from Year 7 enjoyed a picnic event to celebrate an impeccable record of behaviour! Students also had the opportunity to take part in Alternative Learning Week in the last week of term and enjoyed a week of workshops, PSHE and for those who met the qualifying criteria, a trip to a theme park. We look forward to making this a regular feature in the calendar as a reward for student effort and hard work.

Work from Art, Photography, Technology and Media was showcased at our end of year Art Exhibition and was a great way to acknowledge the amazing talent we have within the school. We were also delighted to award prizes to Ashleigh Higgins (Y9), Miss Virdee and Dylan Burnage (Y8) for their fabulous entries in the "Summer is Coming" photography competition which will be displayed at Norden Farm.

Three talented athletes qualified to attend the ESAAA competition in Birmingham: Finlay Moore, Luke Hynes and Imogen Wilson, and we are so very proud with their stellar performances.

I have been so pleased with the enthusiasm and commitment shown by students who have participated in The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and extremely proud that 40 students will achieve the Bronze level, and 10 students are on track to achieve Gold in our first year. Thanks again must go to Mr Morris, Mr Crowther and Ms Warner who have led on this and given up their time to ensure students can take part in out of school activities.

The recent water sport trip to the Isle of Wight was hugely successful and it was heart-warming to see students from different year groups making friends and helping each other gain confidence in the new skills that they were learning.

Our students have also enjoyed trips to Bournemouth, Berlin, Brecon Beacons, Chessington and Thorpe Park, as well as a museum trip and a Spelling Bee competition at Oxford University!

As you will know, we have reviewed our policy on mobile phones and from September. If a mobile phone is seen, it will be immediately confiscated. Understandably, some students have devices to enable them to be in contact with parents whilst travelling to and from school, but students must ensure phones are turned off and out of sight. We appreciate your support with this. Phones can be collected at the end of the day, by a named contact on SIMS. Alternatively students can collect their phone themselves after 5 days.

A reminder that students will be required to wear tights when wearing a skirt in September as the rule is only relaxed in the Summer term. Following feedback from parents, we will be starting a second hand uniform shop and would really welcome any good condition items that your child has outgrown. Items should be freshly laundered and handed in for the attention of Ms McKay or Ms MacKenzie.

Sadly, we say goodbye to a number of staff this term: Tyrese King an ex student who has done a fabulous job working alongside the PE team as PE Technician; Jane Doarks who is joining the NHS after 11 years at Cox Green, Greg Lawson and Steph Richards who both return home overseas; Sarah Harris who is relocating, Lisa Kiley, Caleb Rowe and Lyndsay Fryers who have all secured promotions in their new schools, Nadiah Killick, Georgina Charles and Will Burton who have secured positions closer to home. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the best in their future careers and welcome the staff who will be replacing them.

We are delighted that Cathrin Thomas has returned from her maternity leave, and look forward to welcoming our new staff members in September.

The school office will close at 12.45pm on Friday 19th and will reopen on Tuesday 3rd September at 8.15am.

I trust you will all enjoy the summer break and look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely

Frances Walsh
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

- Thursday 15th August—A Level Results Day from 9am
- Thursday 22nd August – GCSE Results day from 9am
- Thursday 22nd & 23rd August—6th Form Admission interviews
- Monday 2nd September - Inset Day
- Tuesday 3rd September - New Yr 7 start school
- Wednesday 4th September - Yr 7 & Yr12 only
- Thursday 5th September - Whole school start