

Our Ref: RWK/JR

10 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back after the half-term. I hope you all had a lovely break and I can't quite believe that we have completed 2 weeks already.

The first half term was really positive with lots going on and our Year 7's settled in really well as they start their Ecclesfield Careers. I am very proud of the start we have made as a school to the new academic year, the students have returned with a very positive attitude to their learning and the wider school life. The number of extra-curricular opportunities are wide both during the school day and after school and I am delighted that students are making the most of these opportunities at dinner time where we have put on number of extra clubs for all year groups.

As we move into the second half term over 150 students are preparing for our School Production of *Grease* which takes place in January. This is a wonderful School event that involves all 5 year groups, members of our community and of course our staff. The students will be working increasingly hard over the next 3 months to make sure they are ready for when the curtain opens.

We have also had a successful trip to Germany with the MFL Department and our students were exemplary in their conduct and use of their German tongue. These trips are wonderful and give our students the very best opportunities to develop their skills and see other parts of Europe. This week we have more of our students visiting France.

Our Sports Teams continue to be successful across the board and as we move into the Winter months, hopefully we will continue to participate and pick up some trophies.

Our Year 11 students did their first mocks in October and the invigilators commented on their attitude, maturity, and GRIT in taking these exams on. The next 8 weeks for our Y11 is the time to consolidate their knowledge and make sure they are in the best position possible as we enter the last part of their Ecclesfield careers. Our Careers Opportunities Evening last week marked the start of Year 11's Post-16 application period and we look forward to seeing where they move on to.

As we enter the winter months, our four core values of Work Hard, Be Kind, Aim High and Show GRIT continue to be relevant every single day. We will continue to work tirelessly to provide the very best education our community deserves and to work alongside parents to build on our priorities.

I make no apologies that attendance is the key to success, and we will do everything we can to make sure our students are in the building every day. It is a proven fact that attendance is

linked to academic success, it also forms part of our reward system in school and we actively encourage all our students to achieve 100% with the minimum expectation of 97%.

We are grateful for all your support with attendance and punctuality, it is our belief that this is an important life skill beyond the Ecclesfield career. We are passionate about ensuring all our students fulfil their potential and maximise their educational experiences by having outstanding attendance.

Can I draw your attention to the Ecclesfield Parish Council Service of Remembrance on Saturday 11 November at the Parish Memorial Garden off Arundel Road at 10:45am. Our students will be doing the readings and our school band will be playing, this is a real community event that brings everyone together.

On Monday we invite all staff and students to wear odd socks to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week and celebrate that we are all different. We will also be conducting student voice to hear ways in which we could improve how we deal with any incidents of bullying and take part in a national debate through Votes for Schools.

Finally, please look out for an email shared by Miss McCoy that details events taking place for Children in Need over the next week. From a Bake Off and Bake Sale to re-naming and winning a huge Pudsey Bear, there are lots of events to get involved with. Thank you for any contributions.

I would like to thank you for your continued support as we move into the second half term.

Throughout the next few weeks, I will do regular updates.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Walkden
Headteacher