

22 May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

We have reached the end of another half-term and I hope this finds you well. This is just a quick letter to let you know what the students have been up to and what is happening in the final part of the academic year.

It has been a busy few weeks with a lot happening both in and out of the classroom. The Year 11s are well into their final exams now and have made a superb start. We will continue after the break, and I hope they continue with the same zest and attitude right up to the end. We have the final assembly and the Prom to look forward to next half term.

The Year 9s have gone through the options process which is a particularly challenging time as they look to their futures. They have done so well with this and showed real maturity and enthusiasm for what lies ahead. The Year 10s are preparing for their Work Experience and are continuing with their GCSE and Vocational Courses they will also do their first set of mocks in the next half term.

As we enter the final half-term, a reminder we have loads of clubs going on from athletics, darts, cricket, Lego, debate club to football. We have had lots of events taking place and teams running including athletics. We have our London Drama trip this weekend too and we just completed our Smart Phone experiment where students from across all 5-year groups gave up their smart phones for a month-results to follow!!! We have the end of year celebration assemblies taking part in July and of course our Activities Day too. We have started our Transition Visits and our new Year 7 will be here at the start of July for their Induction Days. Our Cologne trip also goes from the 7th July to the 11th.

Our enrichment offer is shaped by student voice. Student and Parent voices matter to us: our Edurio Parent/Carer survey is currently open for you to have your say and help us to shape how the school moves forward. Please see Class Charts for the link, the deadline has been extended to the 6th June.

Our school values of work hard, show grit, aim high and be kind are needed now more than ever. We have challenges ahead as we move into the final half-term, a key drive is attendance. The research will show you the link between attendance and success. We must get the attendance figures up to prepandemic level and we make no excuse in chasing this. I want to thank all the staff who have worked extremely hard this half-term and as always have gone above and beyond. I am extremely proud in leading this group of staff, they are skilled, passionate and determined to give our children the best education possible.

I want to take this opportunity to thank an amazing member of staff who has served this community for 32 years. We say goodbye to Karen Briscoe, a really valued and loved member of staff. She has done her job with a smile, humour, common sense and with a brilliant sense of professionalism. This is a wonderful achievement, and we wish her all the very best in her retirement. 32 years in the modern world is remarkable and the school will not seem the same without her.

We reopen on **Monday 2nd June** at 8:40am on a week 1.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.

Your sincerely

VIII Melle

Richard Walkden Headteacher