



26 April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you well.

## 150 Bake off

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April we held the grand final of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bake Off. Teams representing years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and the sixth form battled it out to see who could make the best hot cross buns. We were delighted to welcome two guest judges, Petty Officer Christopher Dent and Sue Akeroyd. PO Dent is a hugely experienced and talented Royal Navy chef and Mrs Akeroyd, is our wonderful kitchen manager and head chef. The judges had a tough time scoring the food made by the students and agreed that every group produced tasty hot cross buns. The overall winners were Favour and Izzy from 9K who also made their own butter and jam. In second place it was Isla and Emily from 11L and in third place Meg and Isla from 7A. All the bakers did an amazing job and everyone went home with prizes supplied by PO Dent and HMS Raleigh. Well done to everyone who took part, it has been such an enjoyable competition.

## Year 11 and 13

We are fast approaching the public examination series for year 11 and 13. Our students have been working incredibly hard on their personal revision and in their lessons. We are so proud of their efforts and determination and wish them the very best of luck. As a reminder, the celebration events are scheduled for Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

for year 11 and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May for year 13. Please see [here](#) for a reminder of the details surrounding year 11 and 13 throughout the GCSE and A level examination period. Please also be kind enough to ensure that any parent pay arrears are cleared and that sufficient funds are in parentpay for school meals. Sometimes student meal accounts go into arrears but this will be restricted as we approach the end of GCSE and A levels.

### **Year 11 maths online revision lessons**

Our mathematics team will be running a series of online GCSE examination preparation sessions to include a focus on 'predicted papers'. These sessions will be in the evening and some will be over half term and at weekends. Ms Freeman, Head of mathematics, will send out further details in due course. The sessions will run via student's school Teams accounts and will be recorded and saved in the year 11 maths Teams channel. Students are encouraged to attend the Teams sessions with their cameras on. They can choose a virtual background if they wish or just ensure that their actual background is free from personal information. The first session is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Train strikes**

Please note that train strikes have been announced for 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May inclusive. Please remember that if your child normally travels to school by train, alternative arrangements will need to be made for their travel to school for these days. We are unable to authorise absence due to train strikes.

### **Our curriculum**

You may remember that earlier in the year I directed parents to the section of our website that outlines what students will be learning in their lessons. I thought parents might find it useful if I include details in this week's letter. It is called 'curriculum' and is in the parent section of the school website. Please [click here](#) to find out more.

## **Year 12 mocks**

Year 12 have been focusing on their mocks over the last two weeks and are due to return to lessons on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Mobile phones**

We have been delighted to receive a number comments from parents supporting the recent change to our mobile phone policy, thank you for taking the time to write to us. Students have really embraced the change and have been bringing into school games to play together at break and lunch. The most popular at the moment seem to be card games and twister. There are a number of clubs that run at lunchtime and students are continuing to enjoy these. We are seeing students enjoying spending time with each other and having fun without their phones. As a reminder, students should keep their phones switched off and in their bags from when they enter the site and until they have completely left the site. Sixth form students are only permitted to use their phones in the sixth form study centre. In the unlikely event that a student does not follow the rules, they will attend an after school detention the following day and parents will be informed.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work hard to provide the best possible environment for our young people.

Best wishes,



**Simon Underdown.**  
**Headteacher.**