



8th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope this finds you well and that your child has enjoyed the first week back at school. It was wonderful to see so many of our year 11 parents and carers at the sixth form open evening last night, thank you for taking the time to join us.

There are lots of updates and information for me to share with you this week, so I hope you find it useful.

Site improvements

Our dedicated and hardworking site team have been at it again. Over the October holiday, they have; refurbished the music toilets, refreshed the drum room, decorated one of our Main Building corridors, installed more LED lights reducing our carbon footprint, conducted a host of routine compliance checks and audits and completed a significant number of small improvements right across the site. We have an ongoing programme of improvements and upgrades which I hope contributes positively to how students feel about their learning environment.

Food service

Parents and carers will remember that I wrote to everyone earlier this week about our move towards students needing an appropriate balance on their ParentPay account to be able to purchase food or drink items. As a reminder, if a student does not have sufficient funds in their ParentPay account from Monday 18th November, they will be unable to make their purchase. I included in my food service letter to parents and carers a 'how to' guide on setting reminder alerts on ParentPay. Thank you to everyone who has made sure that their child's ParentPay account has sufficient credit for the purchases they wish to make.

English Department Book Amnesty

Around this time of year, the English team turn to a new book to study. Looking at our current stock numbers, it is clear that some students have not returned their books from either last term or even last year. We would be grateful if parents and carers could support their child in having a good look at home to see if they still have books which should have been returned to us.

Students should return school books to their English teacher, or to Reception, or directly to Mrs Blunden-Currie in M3.

Where we know that a student has been issued with a book and it has not been returned, we will, of course, need to invoice parents/carers. Thank you for your understanding in this matter and for your ongoing support of the English department.

Academic reading

You will remember that amongst the very complimentary comments made by Ofsted in their report following the April 2024 inspection, there were suggestions that we could do more to improve student's access to academic reading. One of our strategies has been to introduce 'The Day' which is the online, source verified resource that I have shared with you before. 'The Day' provides articles for young people (and adults) on current affairs stories as well as wider reading. 'The Day' can be accessed [here](#)

We thought it would be helpful to students and parents/carers if we highlighted certain articles from time to time in a bid to encourage our young people to broaden their reading and to find out more about the subjects they study and the World they live in. With that in mind, I am pleased to bring you this week's academic reading recommendations from **The Day** website. These curated articles are designed to stimulate curiosity, spark meaningful discussions, and enhance critical thinking skills. We encourage everyone—students and parents alike—to explore the diverse range of topics on offer and to enjoy learning together. Watch this space for future recommendations. I do hope you find them interesting.

English [Talking is crucial says school report - The Day](#)

Physics [How the Earth got a new mini-moon - The Day](#)

Art [Farewell: the artist who reinvented women - The Day](#)
Why Read These?

- Students: These articles will deepen your understanding of various subjects and offer fresh perspectives to enhance classroom discussions. Plus, they can give you ideas for school projects, essays, and debates.
- Parents: Engaging with these articles alongside your child(ren) provides a wonderful opportunity to discuss important topics and encourage academic growth. It's a fun way to stay informed together.

Parking near to school

As we prioritise the safety of all students, staff, and families, I thought it helpful to remind everyone of the importance of driving and parking safely around our school.

We all want a safe environment for our school community and I thank parents and carers for being mindful of the following road safety expectations that I'm sure everyone would see as essential.

1. **Observe Speed Limits:** Please drive slowly and cautiously in the vicinity of the school.
2. **Avoid Double Parking:** Double parking not only blocks other vehicles but also makes it difficult for students to see oncoming traffic, increasing the risk of accidents.
3. **Watch for Pedestrians:** Children can sometimes be unpredictable, so please remain vigilant when driving around the school
4. **Respect Staff and Volunteers:** Our staff and volunteers are here to assist with traffic flow and ensure safety.
5. **Plan Ahead for Extra Time:** To help ease congestion and reduce stress, please plan to arrive early.

Thank you for helping us to make safety a top priority. Together, we can continue to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for our whole community.

Year 11 Update from Mr Law

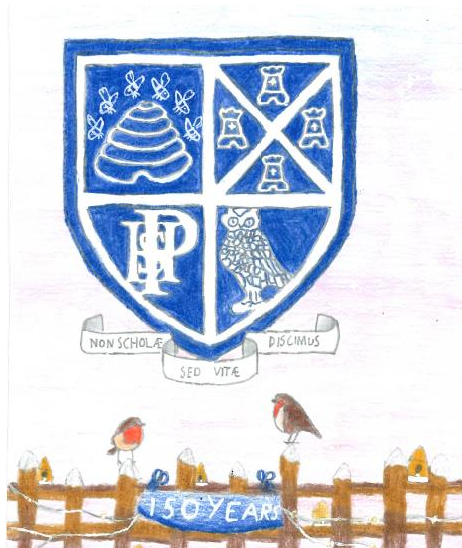
Mr Law and Miss Roughton will be leading an assembly for year 11 on Wednesday 13th November to outline plans for the mock examinations. They will go through the examination period logistics and cover things like; where to leave bags during the examinations; behaviour expectations in and around the examination venues; ensuring punctuality for examinations and a reminder about equipment.

Next week, Mr Law will share with parents and carers the links to the JCQ and examination board rules and regulations so that everyone is aware of what is and is not permitted.



Christmas card competition

We very much enjoyed looking through all the Christmas card competition entries this year. As always, students were very creative with their design ideas. Congratulations to our first-place winner, Erin from 7L, whose design perfectly met the brief. Erin incorporated a festive Christmas theme, a PHSG theme, and a celebration of our 150th anniversary. Below you can see the winning design. Well done to Erin.



A big well done also to our joint second and third-place winners, who produced some beautiful designs. Isabelle 9K, Orlaith 8A, Anna, Sial 7K and Ella 8K



Carols And Mince Pies (CAMP)

CAMP this year will be on 11th December after school, further details to follow. The PTFA are always involved in supporting this event and we are very grateful to them. If you would like to be part of the PTFA team at CAMP, please contact them at ptfa@tsatrust.org.uk , I am certain they would be grateful for your support.

Library and Reading success

I am delighted to share some great news: our library has seen a remarkable rise in book loans over the past three years, with a major increase the autumn term data. After running a report comparing loan data from the last three years, we've found a steady climb in fiction loans—showing more students than ever are embracing the world of books.

There was a 55% increase in loans from term 1 2022 to term 1 2023 and then a further 16% increase from term 1 2023 to term 2024.

Of course, with students not having access to their phones in school, there is an increased capacity for students to explore other, more enriching, activities, and reading is one of them.

It's wonderful to see the library buzzing with activity and to witness a renewed enthusiasm for reading. Thank you to parents and carers who place importance on reading in discussions at home, it really does make a difference to children's ability to both access their learning and to be successful.

Vaccinations

A reminder that the in-school nasal flu vaccine for year 7 thorough to year 11 will be taking place at school on 2nd December 2024. Here is a [link](#) for the information on how to give consent for the vaccine from our medical administrator.

Please note that the deadline for consent is midday on the 27th November 2024. Unfortunately, Kernow Health will not be able to administer the vaccine if consents are received after midday on the 27th November.

Remembrance Day

We will be holding our Remembrance Day 2 min silence on Monday 11th November at 11am. Tutors will be speaking with their groups about the importance of Remembrance and parents and carers may wish to have a discussion with their child(ren) about it so that students are fully prepared.

Year 13 parents' evening

A reminder that we will be holding our online year 13 parents' evening next week. I encourage parents to make appointments to speak with their child's teachers. The deadline for bookings is midday on Wednesday 13th November.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Underdown', with a horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.