



10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year. I do hope you enjoyed a relaxing and restful break over Christmas.

Thank you to all our parents and carers who completed the communication questionnaire in December. There were so many generous and kind comments regarding our various forms of communication, thank you. So many of you said that you felt we did a good job of keeping you informed of what's going on in school and that you appreciated our efforts, thank you.

There were also some helpful suggestions for improvement which we are investigating. Some parents/carers requested that the weekly letters are sent in the body of the message rather than as an attachment. We are looking at how we can make this work within our management information system and hope to have a solution soon. Although a change won't be immediate, and we thank you in advance for your understanding. Another request was that upcoming dates are a feature of the weekly letters and placed at the end of the letter. This will be a feature of the letters from now on.

Some parents asked for year group specific letters. We try to address this in the weekly letters by using sub-headings to allow parents to easily scroll to what they feel is relevant to them. However, we are also looking at the possibility of year group or key stage specific communication to go out termly.

Latest news

Some parents and carers reported that they did not know about the latest news section of our website. This is where we celebrate what's going on in school. I will include a

link to latest news in my letters so that it is easier for parents to stay updated. [Latest news](#)

Getting back into routine

Returning to routine after a long(ish) break can be hard for many of us. The National College have created a poster to help parents support their children getting back into clear routines after a less structured period. The poster is included as an attachment. I am aware that attachments are a barrier for some of our readers, but please bear with us whilst we investigate alternative ways to share information with you that has been sent to us. I hope you find the poster informative.

Reading

We are determined to maintain a high profile for reading. Reading makes such a difference to outcomes, student's ability to engage with the curriculum and to personal enjoyment and fulfilment. Parents and carers will be familiar with the regular reading sections in my letters and that we link these to curriculum areas. I recommend that parents and carers encourage their child(ren) to read the suggestions (they have also been sent the links in my weekly student letter) and that they talk to you about what they have learned. Parents and carers may enjoy reading the articles too, they are really interesting. Happy reading.

Reading just 50 words may seem small, but its power lies in its ability to:

1. **Spark Curiosity:** Even a short passage can trigger interest or a new idea.
2. **Inspire Action:** A single quote or phrase can motivate and shift perspective.
3. **Enhance Focus:** Reading a snippet trains the mind to process and comprehend quickly.
4. **Provide Knowledge:** Even a few words can teach something new or clarify a concept.
5. **Improve Vocabulary:** Exposure to 50 words adds new terms or reinforces known ones.
6. **Encourage Habits:** Small, consistent actions build reading discipline.
7. **Boost Creativity:** A brief read can stimulate imagination and critical thinking.

Reading 50 words regularly can be a stepping stone to deeper, more sustained learning.

Try these recommendations from The Day.

Mathematics [Imaginary numbers are real, say physicists - The Day](#)

Art [UK's richest artist sets fire to his own work - The Day](#)

IT <https://theday.co.uk/frankenstein-exploring-the-edges-of-science/>

Upcoming dates for your diary

Year 9

Thursday 16th January. Year 9 options evening in school. 4.30pm start, 6pm finish. All parents and year 9 students are invited and encouraged to attend.

Thursday 23rd January and/or Thursday 30th January. Year 9 parents evening, online.

Year 11

Tuesday 21st January. Year 11 mock grades published to students and parents.

Friday 24th January. Deadline for year 11 to submit their A level options .

Year 13

Thursday 6th February. **Year 13** mock grades published to students and parents

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.