



4th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that this finds you well.

I am delighted to report that our new lockers have now been installed. Our facilities team have done a great job in securing the lockers following all sorts of supply issues as a result of the well-publicised challenges that we are all facing. In the first instance, we will offer the opportunity to have a locker to year 7 students. Lockers not taken up by year 7 will be offered to year 8 and so on. To begin with, there will be a letter sent to parents of year 7 students explaining the charging structure and we hope that the first groups will be using their lockers after half term. We are looking at ways of installing more lockers in the future, but the limitations of our site mean that we are unlikely to be able to have enough space to provide lockers for every student.

Many of our year groups will be sitting internal assessments before half term, and I have reminded students that they may wish to check with their teacher, or look on Teams, if they are unsure about what is to be expected in the assessment. Although teachers help students to prepare for assessments and provide information about what is to be assessed, sometimes a student will want to double check, and that's fine. Some areas run regular support clubs and offer online learning opportunities and students are encouraged to make use of these if they think it would be helpful.

Our Student Leadership Diversity team have planned a cultural celebration event on Thursday 8th February. To celebrate different cultures around the world, we are holding a Culture Food Festival on Tuesday 8th February at lunchtime on the courts. Members of our school community are invited to make any food from a culture of their choice. Students who would like to get involved have been given information by the Diversity student leaders. I am hopeful that we will have lots of pictures to share on our website following the event. We are all hoping the sun shines on the day.

The recent photography competition was a real success. The event was created by Amelia (HST) and judged by her and Miss Roper. Miss Roper and Amelia really enjoyed the photographs and were interested to see what people would contribute. They said that it was so hard to choose the winner and the runner up. Prizes were



based on the view of the judges in terms of how well the photo worked, taking into consideration colour, shapes, depth, and lines. It was great to see everyone's contributions and Amelia hopes to hold more competitions in the future - the winners will be revealed on Monday 7th April. Well done to all who were involved.

Our sixth form is becoming really popular, we have welcomed many students into year 12 from other schools this year as well as welcoming back most of our own year 11s. Applications for year 12 places from September 2022 is strong and we are determined to provide our learners with the best possible environment for study. Since sixth form students have some periods of self-directed study each week, they need a quiet place to work when not in a lesson. We have been looking at how best to use the spaces in school to ensure that everyone has what they need. The sixth form common room is not really big enough for our growing sixth form and we are looking at the possibility of swapping over the current library and sixth form spaces. We are committed to retaining both a well stocked and pleasant library and a study space for sixth form students that is fit for purpose. We are in the early stages of our planning and will be talking with students about the plans. I will share more information as the project develops.

Very best wishes,

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.