



30 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope you are well.

There are a few things for me to update you on this week. Thank you as always for how you support the work we are doing to help our young people have the best possible experience in school.

### **The new library, the books have missed you**

The new library is now officially open. Ingrid and Grace, our diversity reading group leaders had the honour of cutting the ribbon to launch our newly renovated space. The launch saw students from all year groups come to visit, with many eager to start borrowing books again. It is so nice to be open properly again, we have missed having the students in here.

Grace, from 10L said. "Reading is such a big hobby of mine, I spend so much time doing it because I find books to be so interesting and enjoyable. Of course, this also means I love and appreciate libraries, particularly our new school library. I'm so glad that students here have such a welcoming and useful space, to do a wide range of things from relaxing with a good read to studying in the computer area. Our amazing librarians have made this new library a lovely space, I'm sure that many pupils here will make the most of it"

Please do visit our website to see pictures of our new library. We are hopeful that this newly rennervated space will encourage more and more students to read a wide range of literature.

### **Digital survey**

As we begin a new school year, we are trying to better understand our use of technology and how we can use it to improve and benefit all areas and aspects of school life. As part of our information gathering, we would appreciate some feedback from parents and carers. The form should take roughly 5 to 10 minutes to complete and can be accessed by following [this link](#). Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this survey.

### **Evening academic events**

As a reminder, at 5.30pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October we have our year 10 expectations evening and at 5pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October we have our open evening for students and their parents in years 8 and 9. Parents of students in these year groups have had separate letters detailing the plan for the evenings.



We have our scheduled evening for **students and their parents of year 11 and 13 on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October**. Following feedback, we are going to trial a different start time so that students who wait behind after school for their parents do not have to wait for too long. The evening will run from 4.30pm to 6pm. Mr Langmead will write to parents of students in year 11 and 13 with more information in due course.

**The focus of the evening on 20<sup>th</sup> October for year 11 and 13 will be on how to prepare for the mock examinations.** Year 11 mocks are before Christmas and year 13 mocks are after Christmas. Parents and students will be able to visit subject areas to discuss mock preparation strategies. This is not a traditional parents' evening where parents meet with their child's teacher, that will happen during the online parents evening later in the year.

### **European Day of Languages**

Monday 26 September was European Day of Languages and we are celebrating with language competitions. Students have been working on competitions and activities, the deadline for all tasks is 10/10/2022.

### **Training to be a teacher with PHSG**

At PHSG we are looking at the potential of increasing our offer to help support and train the teachers of the future. We currently work with the University of Exeter and their teacher training team to offer placements to prospective teachers on the PGCE course and we are considering the possibility of expanding this to recruit graduates interested in training to teach on the Schools Direct programme.

Unlike a PGCE course, where trainees often start with lectures before going out on shorter placements in schools, School Direct allows trainees to participate as active members of the community from the off. Working from the start of September through to July in schools, allows trainees to build lasting relationships with students and colleagues.

School Direct enables schools to develop a tailored training programme, customised to suit the needs of the school and the trainees. With trainees in school from day one, working alongside our existing team of excellent teachers, it is a great opportunity for them to gain insight into life as a teacher and to be supported by those already doing the job.

More information will be shared with you as we explore this potential avenue in the near future.

### **Hear me out magazine**

Amelia, our Head student who manages the student magazine, has been appealing to students for articles as the deadline fast approaches. Any student who has an article or art

work for submission should send it to Amelia by **31<sup>st</sup> October** - *but please get them to her asap*. Students can find Amelia's school email address in the weekly message that I send to students.

**For writers:** Students should let Amelia know their ideas for any piece of writing whether it's an article, a poem, or a short story etc. It can be about anything that interests them.

**For artwork:** Any pieces will be appreciated - if you'd like to make something that accompanies a piece of writing contact Amelia and she can share the themes people are writing about, but she wants to include as much artwork as possible so anything students are proud of can go in.

Very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Underdown', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

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