



7 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you well.

Parent/carers and student after school events

It was wonderful to see so many of our year 10 students and parents/carers at the year 10 expectation evening on Wednesday 5th October. There were presentations from both staff and student leaders and as usual our students performed magnificently. Student speakers talked about the importance of staying on top of homework requirements and the need to revise carefully for assessments. A theme of the evening was the clear link between effective independent study and success in assessments. The 'if I knew then what I know now' speech from our year 12 students highlighted the idea that learners who prepare carefully and make efficient use of their time are far less likely to feel overly anxious about assessments. Year 11 student leaders talked about how they benefitted from their work experience in year 10 and also about the student leadership opportunities in school.

On Thursday the 13th October we will be holding our year 8/9 evening. This evening will focus on the curriculum students are following and a look at how we use thinking strategies in class. On Thursday 20th October we have our year 11/13 evening which will focus on revision strategies for the mock and real examinations.

Thinking, teaching and learning bulletin

In order to help parents and carers have a clearer idea of how we use thinking in lessons and how we encourage students to use thinking for their independent study, we have posted on our website [here](#) our first thinking bulletin for parents and carers. There will be further bulletins posted as the year rolls on. I hope you find them interesting and insightful.

Hummingbird

This weekend our Hummingbird team of 15 students from years 8 -11 are competing at Goodwood in the Greenpower F24 International Final alongside 75 cars from across the country and further afield. The cars are built, managed and raced by the students. The two ninety minute races take place on Sunday and are scheduled to start at 11:00 and 15:00hrs. You can follow [this link](#) for live timings.

Black History month

Black History month is gathering pace at PHSG. We have already been committed to Action Not Words in terms of Diversity for some time. Last year the Diversity Group together with Heads of Department looked carefully at the curriculum in several subject areas and made significant changes to ensure that our curriculum reflected our diverse community, country and world. [PHSG English Department Article](#)

Alongside all other schools in our Trust, we have made a pledge for BHM and beyond:

We value and celebrate all cultures within our community. We are mindful that people's given and family names are an essential part of their cultural identity, and as such, we pledge to afford everyone the respect of correct pronunciation of their names.

[BHM Article](#)

Our newly opened relocated library has an exciting selection of reading that showcases a diverse range of authors.

The Reading Group has focussed their reading and discussion this month on three superb novels by Black authors, all three make engaging reading for book club members and non-book club readers alike. [Click here for further details](#)

In the refectory, our wonderful kitchen team will be offering some new dishes of Afro/Caribbean origin for students and staff to either try for the first time, or enjoy as a taste of home at school. [Click here for menu options](#)

As well as the Trust wide Art competition, we are running our own Art event over the next two Thursday lunch times, 13th and 20th October. We are inviting students to participate in the making of Monoprint A4 images of Key Black role models, the colour/texture inspired by Nelson Makamo. Out of the Art event will come a series of A4 artworks which will be laminated to create a wall hanging.

World mental Health day Monday 10th October

In support of World Mental Health day on Monday 10th October, students are invited to wear a yellow accessory to join Young Minds UK (the national charity that PHSG supports) as they raise awareness and funding to show young people that how they feel matters and to help create a future where young people have access to the support they need. Students can see the Head Student Team Instagram for more information and if anyone has any questions they should contact Esther, our Head Student.

I wish you a relaxing weekend and good luck to those of you taking part in the Tour de Moor on Sunday.

Best wishes

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

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.