



14 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope you are all well.

I would like to begin my letter to you this week with a thank you to all the parents/carers of students in years 8 and 9 who attended the year 8/9 open evening yesterday, Thursday 13th October. It was a wonderful opportunity for teachers to showcase their curriculum and their use of thinking strategies and for parents and carers to see the significant improvements we have made to school infrastructure over the last 18 months. Thank you also for the positivity and generous comments made to us on the evening. It is amazing to have such a supportive parent body.

Open evening for year 11/13

The year 11/13 evening is next week on Thursday 20th October and will start at 4.30pm. The focus will be on how to revise for the mock examinations and the real examinations in 2023.

Election of the 2023 Head Student Team

Our wonderful Head Student Team are getting ready to hand over the reins to a new team. The selection process for the new HST is comprehensive and requires students to write an application for a particular post, to present their ideas to the selection panel and to be interviewed. HST will be sending out details to students on Monday 17th October on how to apply. HST is open to anyone in year 12 and the position lasts for the calendar year.

Celebration events

We enjoyed our year 8/9 celebration event this week. We hold these ceremonies in school time and bring year groups together to award endeavour, academic outcome and tutor awards.

The ceremonies are wonderfully supported by our students who so clearly delight in not only receiving and award but also seeing their friends being awarded. These events speak volumes for the value our students place on effort and achievement. We will be doing the same with years 10 and 11 next week.

Ukraine shoebox appeal

This year we are delighted to take part in the Ukraine Christmas Shoebox appeal. The Plymouth based appeal group have been travelling over to the Ukraine with supplies throughout the Year but would like to do something special for Christmas. They are asking for donations of festively wrapped shoeboxes for a range of ages and genders. These boxes are going to be delivered when the group next travel to the Ukraine at the beginning of December. As the boxes are for Christmas they have asked that they contain a mix of general supplies as well as small treats. Please see the [link here](#) for posters with all the information about what can be included and how the boxes need to be arranged so that they can be opened at country borders. Christmas shoeboxes can be dropped at the school reception where we will hold and display them until their collection. The deadline for donations is **Friday 18th November**. Thank you in advance for any contributions.

The last day of this half term is Thursday 20th October. It is a normal school day, although students are welcome to wear a red accessory in support of '*Show racism the red card day*' which is marked nationally on Friday 21st October. Students will get more information about this fund-raising event next week. Students will return from half term on Tuesday 1st November.

Best wishes



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.