



21 April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you enjoyed a relaxing Easter break and I welcome you to our summer term.

The Students put on a wonderful Gym and Dance Festival on the last day of the Spring term which was very much enjoyed by the whole school community. The House spirit is very much in evidence at school with the Festivals being the crowning glory for many of our students.

Calendar change

I would like to remind you about a change we made to an event on the school calendar. I confirm that the evening event planned for the **26th April will be a year 10 student and parent/carer** event with the focus of the evening being preparation for the end of year 10 examinations. **The event runs from 4.30 to 6pm.**

There will be a short talk from the Headteacher and Mr Law (Head of Year 10) as well as some student leaders on how best to prepare for these important assessments. **The talk will be at 5pm in Newman Hall.** The rest of the evening will then be an opportunity for students and parents to visit departments and talk to subject specialists about how best to revise for specific areas of the curriculum. Students and parents/carers are welcome to visit department areas from 4.30pm and will be able to consider effective revision strategies and obtain support materials where appropriate.

We ran a similar event prior to the year 11 mock examinations and the feedback from students and parents was very positive. We are hopeful that you will find this event for year 10 similarly useful.

Year 12 and Key Stage 3 students

Year 12 students are currently working on their mock examinations and have received revision guidance through their tutoring program and revision materials from their teachers.

KS3 students will be given information on how to prepare for their end of year examinations via their lessons. They will be provided with an end of year examination booklet and revision materials.

PE & medical issues

As you are aware many of our PE lessons happen offsite, where we walk students to the university or travel by minibus to different locations around the city. It is essential that all students with medical issues such as asthma have the required medical equipment with them when we are offsite, or your child may be asked to stay onsite with a different group.

If your child no longer has a medical issue such as asthma or doesn't require a pump, please can you get in touch with the school so we can update this on our records.

Sports fixtures:

We run numerous sports fixtures at different schools all over the city after school. We are happy to give students the option to come back to school with us or they can leave from the venue. If you have given your child permission to leave from the venue, please can you supply the PE department with an email or send your child a text message that they can then show the teacher in order to dismiss them from the venue.

Notice for Y11 and Y13 students with regards external examinations

Students have all received their personalised examination timetables this week.

Please ensure that all the information in the booklet that accompanies the timetable has been read and digested, any questions please direct them to Mrs Hardwick our examinations officer here at the school.

In particular we ask families to please note the following:

Afternoon examinations beginning at 1.30pm that are over 2 hours long will of course go beyond the usual end of the school day and so students will need to be prepared to make

alternative travel arrangements to get them home as their usual bus or train will be missed on these days.

Families are advised NOT to book any holidays until after the 28th June. OFQUAL plan in contingency days for examinations in case of national emergencies.

Some students have additional paperwork as they have examination clashes or medical needs and this paperwork needs to be read, completed and returned to Mrs Hardwick as soon as possible.

Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and Meningitis ACWY vaccinations

Year 9 students are due to have their DTP and MenACWY vaccinations on 15th May. For more information and to consent or decline the vaccinations, please click on the following link: <https://schoolimms.hrcaregroup.com/dtp/2021/devon>

The closing date for your response is **7th May 2023**. Late responses cannot be processed and therefore will not be included in the school session. If you have any difficulties completing the consent, please contact the Immunisations Team on 0300 247 0082 or email vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

If you have a child in Year 10 or 11 that you have not already consented for but would like to, please contact the team on 0300 247 0082. The link is for students in year 9 only.

Year 10 Parents' evening

Year 10 parents' evening is on the **4th and 11th May**. This parents' evening is online and we will send out booking information in due course. I encourage parents to make appointments with all of their child's teachers.

Industrial action

You will remember from my letter prior to the Easter break that the National Education Union have called 2 more days of national industrial action on the **27th April and the 2nd May**. As I mentioned in my earlier letter, we will invite the following groups into school for these days: **Year 7, year 11, year 13, vulnerable students, students of key workers**. If you believe your child is in either of the last 2 categories and they have not been in school on the previous strike days and you would like them to attend on 27th April and/or the 2nd May, please contact

Mrs Payne at Sam.Payne@phsg.tsat.uk . Students not coming into school on these days will have work set for them on Teams unless their teacher is taking action.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Underdown', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.