

PARENTAL BULLETIN – 8 JULY 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been bursting at the seams with wonderful experiences for students inside and outside the classroom. The Duke of Edinburgh expeditions returned and the staff who led the trips were delighted with the students' manners, resilience, maturity and sense of adventure; well done to all those involved. There have been a number of other successful trips out of school but my personal highlight of the week has to be the visit to the school by a professional Flamenco dancing company who worked with our Year 9 and 10 students to broaden their knowledge of Spanish culture; our students (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Please keep an eye on our social media platforms to find out more about what is going on in school.

You will have received a few letters from me in the past few weeks. Firstly, please look closely at our uniform expectations for September. There are a few minor adjustments and we have deliberately given parents plenty of notice so you can source uniform at a decent price which complies with our policy.

I have also taken the decision to move to students wearing impeccable PE kit next Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th July to help them stay safe and comfortable during the extreme weather conditions that are predicted. I have suggested Monday and Tuesday in the first instance, but I will keep a close eye on the conditions and adjust our uniform policy if necessary. As it stands Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, we will expect full immaculate uniform.

Finally, please be advised that we will be finishing for the summer break at 12.30pm on Thursday 21st July. Further details will be sent out next week.

As always, have a fabulous weekend.

Mr Ford
Headteacher

EID MUBARAK

We wish Eid Mubarak to all those celebrating Eid ul-Adha this weekend. Please note students who celebrate Eid are **NOT** entitled to take a day off school in lieu of the fact that Eid falls on a weekend (this weekend).

SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

Please see two notices attached.

WATER SAFETY

DROWING PREVENTION WEEK <https://www.rlss.org.uk/pages/category/drowning-prevention-week-campaign>

The recent hot weather has encouraged young people to cool off in water. Unsuitable rivers and quarries hide dangers below, not taking into account the hazards of freezing cold water and currents.

Teenagers especially are drawn in by peers and a propensity for risky behaviours. Just last Friday, a 16-year-old boy drowned in a river in Buckinghamshire.

Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK)

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/pages/category/drowning-prevention-week-campaign>

Canal and River Trust - Summer water safety

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/summer-water-safety>

Water Safety at the beach

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/water-safety-at-the-beach>

SUN SAFETY

The Teenage Cancer Trust found that nearly two-thirds (61%) of young people aged 13-24 have avoided using sunscreen in order to get a better tan. As the weather gets hotter in the UK, we need to be more knowledgeable about keeping safe in the sun than ever before. <https://www.teenagecancertrust.org/information-about-cancer/how-to-stay-safe-in-the-sun> The damage done to young skin can lead to skin cancer developing in later life, so it's vital to help young people protect themselves in the sun.

Teenage Cancer Trust Resources

<https://www.teenagecancertrust.org/support-us/spread-word/shunburn-stay-safe-sun>

Tips for Staying Safe in the Sun (CBeebies)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/sun-safety-for-kids>

LANGUAGES

The Languages Department are hosting a French café for all Year 9 and 10 French students next Friday 15th July - drinks and pastries provided with a lovely French ambiance! Students should be ready to order their drinks in the target language. Miss Roberts will let students know their times and groups this week. We're really looking forward to sharing some French culture - c'est fantastique!

STEAM – WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW...

Steam came into being simply as a means for software developers to distribute their own games (including the popular Counter-Strike, Half-Life and Dota series), but swiftly evolved to host third-party titles as well. These days, players can find A-list gaming franchises like PUBG, Apex Legends and Grand Theft Auto among the platform's most-played games. It's a model that clearly works; in some recent years, as many of 15% of the total computer game purchases globally have been made through Steam. With a growing volume of users – the vast majority, by default, spending at least some money on the platform – it's no surprise that scams are among Steam's pitfalls. Check out our #WakeUpWednesday guide for the full story. Please see the attached poster.

OLD PE KIT DONATION REQUEST

Request for any redundant PE kit lying around to be considered for donation to our PE Department. Either to be dropped off at reception or students welcome to drop off at the PE Department whilst in school. All donations will be gratefully received.

LOST PROPERTY

The items on the attachment are currently in our lost property box. If you recognise any of the items, please send your child to student services where they can claim the item. We also have several different pieces of jewellery to be collected. Any items that are not collected by the end of term will be taken to the local charity shop. Please see the attached.

In our drive to broaden our vocabulary, please find our new **T2 Workable Word of the week – 'PROMOTE'** - If you 'promote' something, you help it succeed. In every part of society – a home, a school or a country – if enough people do not take part and 'promote' its values then it will fail. We all hope *someone else* will do it instead. But if you don't do something, how can you expect anyone else to? We use the word 'promote' as a VERB.

Here are some ways you could use the word:

"He was promoted to senior editor. The army major was promoted to lieutenant colonel. The team have been promoted to the First Division."

"His conduct of affairs was by earnest efforts to promote education and to develop the resources of the country. ..."

Where does it come from?

Late Middle English: from Latin *promot-* 'moved forward', from the verb *promovere*, from *pro-* 'forward, onward' + *movere* 'to move'.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21 July	School breaks up for Summer Holidays
5 Sept	Teacher Training Day – school closed to students
6 Sept	Teacher Training Day – school closed to students
7 Sept	Return to school at 08.45am