

16 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you are all well and have been able to enjoy the sunshine. It is very exciting that spring is here and there is a lessening of restrictions. However, we are mindful of the need to stay safe and remind everyone in school about the importance of hands, face, space and fresh air. It is also important that we all continue to test twice weekly and isolate, if required.

Fundraising

We've been asked by our local MP, Guy Opperman, to support a fundraising initiative through the 10for10fitness challenge <https://10for10.uk/>. He's raising money for The Brain Tumour Charity (and people can support him via <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/guy-opperman>) but anyone can take part and can choose their own charity focus.

You could walk 10,000 steps, do 10 press ups or set ups a day, or even run or cycle 10k. The only limit is your imagination. The 10for10 Challenge is for everyone.

You can choose any challenge - the only limit is your imagination, then donate or raise at least £10 for a local charity of your choice, and nominate three friends to take part too.

Students will have the opportunity to participate via form time and we are keen to promote physical and mental health by being active.

We have also managed to raise over £5,000 in memory of Mr. Scott. This is a fantastic achievement, a reflection of the generosity of our community and a demonstration of the impact Chris had on staff, parents and students. Thank you very much for your contributions.

3g facility and footwear

I would like to clarify a few questions that have arisen regarding the need for studded footwear on the new 3g AstroTurf.

- All students are expected to have studded footwear for use on the 3g AstroTurf. Guidance was sent out prior to Christmas explaining that footwear for the AstroTurf would be needed this year.
- Students will use the AstroTurf for a range of sports, such as rounders, football, rugby, tag rugby, or handball throughout the course of the year.
- Students who are currently participating in netball/tennis will be rotating onto football and tag rugby this term, and are expected to have boots for these activities.
- We understand that boots can be expensive, however, please look on eBay and selling pages for second hand boots, you can find boots on here for £3-4.
- We are also looking into creating a boot bank in which students can purchase boots from us for a small deposit. When the boots are returned the deposit will be given back. The deposit would be £5.
- Alternatively, if your child has a pair of boots that no longer fit they can bring those in and we will try to swap them for some that do. This would replace the need for a deposit.

Boot bank donation

As previously mentioned, for the boot bank to work, we would like to ask anyone if they have any old or spare boots that they are no longer using. If they would be happy to donate to the PE department it would be hugely appreciated and would allow someone to use the boots to access the facility.

Y11 and Y13 Leaving Dates

I can now confirm that Y11 and Y13 students will not be expected in school after the half-term holiday. Therefore, they will finish attending school lessons on Friday 28th May. This allows time between the end of their assessments and leaving to finish courses, complete coursework and do some progression work. We will also require students in school, at that point, to finalise the administration of the centre assessed grades process. Our usual attendance and monitoring procedures will be in place for that period of time.

Safeguarding

Following the current media coverage of 'Everyone's Invited', I wanted to highlight our commitment to keeping all students safe, and fostering a culture in which we promote healthy behaviours and attitudes. It is vital that members of the school community feel able to come forward and report an experience of sexual harassment, assault or violence. Our pastoral team are excellent, with experience and training, in dealing with disclosures. Our students can speak to any member of staff they feel comfortable with and can be assured that we will support them. If former students also contact the school in relation to any concerns, we will ensure they are signposted to the appropriate services.

Mr. Zabrocki, our designated safeguarding lead, will speak to students over the coming weeks to ensure that they are fully aware of the support and processes in school. Mr. Hedley has also worked hard to ensure that messages around respect, consent, sexism and misogyny are communicated via the PSHE curriculum.

Please have a lovely weekend. Stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully



Neil Seaton

Head of School