

5 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on aspects of school life, celebrate some of our successes and let you know about upcoming events.

Open Events

Traditionally this is the time of year that we welcome prospective students and families to visit our school and see us in our day to day routine. We all remember how difficult it was to pick the right secondary school and I am so pleased that this year we have welcomed over 300 families to look at our school. We have had to increase the number of open events for families and this is testament to the really strong, positive reputation that we are building in the local community and in our feeder primary schools. Our students, as always, were a credit to the school and to you, acting as tour guides and speakers - as ever, they are our best ambassadors. I would also like to thank you as parents and carers as I know that many of you are recommending our school.

RAAC Update

We started the year with the disrupted news of RAAC and that we needed to do some reorganisation of classes. I am delighted that our students rose to the challenge of this and we had minimal disruption to our day to day running. It is sad that we are not currently able to have year group assemblies in the main hall, but we have been able to deliver online assemblies to ensure that we are able to communicate with each year group as a whole and share important information as well as celebrate world and national events.

In regards to classrooms, we welcomed the delivery of 5 portacabins last week and are putting the finishing touches to them before we move our P16 students into these state of the art rooms. All rooms are fully equipped with the interactive whiteboards that we now know are part of day to day teaching. They are also wirelessly connected to the internet so our students can still utilise our chromebooks for learning. With the arrival of these buildings, we can resume our much missed library lessons for all students.

Parents Events

One of the areas that we constantly strive to build upon is our engagement with parents. I know that many of you have regular contact with our Pastoral Support team and our Raising standards team. This is such an important relationship. Please also make contact with your child's form tutor - they are the person that sees your child first thing when they arrive at school and are a great person to link with.

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Headteacher: Mrs Alex O'Donnell
Company Registration Number: 7348231



We have organised our regular parent events so that every year group has a face to face event and an online parents evening. Both of these offer an opportunity for you to meet with key staff who are involved in your child's education. The events are listed below for you to mark on your calendar. (Whilst we try to stick to these dates, there may be times when they have to be rescheduled due to circumstances beyond our control).

Year	Parent Event Date	Parents Evening (online)
7	3 October	14 December
8	16 October	21 February
9	29 February (Options)	11 January
10	10 October	12 June
11	21 September	29 November (This will be face to face)
P16	26 September	Y12 5 June Y13 19 December Y13 6 March

We have already this term invited parents of Year 7 and Year 11 to share information and give guidance on how the home-school relationship can support young people. We also held a virtual Year 12 information event. Each evening gave reminders about safeguarding but also was an opportunity for parents to see work, ask questions and learn strategies to support their children. The feedback from these meetings were really positive.

"I wanted to extend my gratitude for the Curriculum Evening. I found the session to be very informative and genuinely helpful. Thank you for providing valuable insights into our child's education".

Thank you, as always, for your support of the school. We go from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely



Alex O'Donnell
Executive Headteacher

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