



Matravers

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HEADTEACHER'S HALF-TERM LETTER

February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our end of term 3 update.

The school year is once again certainly flying-by with lots happening around the school as usual! I hope that everyone enjoyed the “snow experience” for this year earlier in the term!

I continue to be impressed with the vast majority of students who approach their exam preparation with commitment and dedication in Year 11 and Year 13. We have recently completed “mock-exams” and it is clear that students have learned a great deal from these challenging experiences. These exams are extremely important in preparing for what is to come in the summer. We have followed these with our usual “mock-conferences” to highlight what needs to still be done and how this can be achieved by all. A key theme from these is always around maintaining a positive and healthy mind-set. It is always a measure of how committed a student is to their studies and their future when they recognise that they need to work a little harder and we are proud of how many students are attending our bespoke “period 6” programme to help them secure even better results. Exams are challenging and difficult; they are meant to be. Through our continued support, guidance and help our young people will thrive through the next few months.

If you are a parent of a student in their final crucial exam stages, please continue to let us know if you have any concerns or queries about them. Working together to encourage and challenge, in equal measures, is vital to securing the results our students and your child deserves. We thank all parents for turning out to the many parents’ evenings we have held and for supporting your sons/daughters by doing this; it does make a massive difference to your child to know that you are supporting and helping. There is always a solution and way forward for any issue so please carefully monitor how your child is and keep us informed.

It has been a pleasure to continue to welcome our many new students and their families to the school over the last term. Many parents continue to comment during their tours of the school about the calmness and focus that they see and feel around the campus. They also value the traditional approaches that our environment naturally lends itself to.

At the time of writing we are still progressing very well with our various building projects and plans. Our new block is progressing ahead of schedule and is really taking shape. The £1 million refurbishment of the main teaching block is progressing at a much slower pace than we would like. Our new floodlit astro-turf is up and running. We are about to have a full roof survey take place with a view to planning when all roofs will be replaced across the site.



Please note the following reminders of Term 4 dates:

Half term	Mon 18 February – Fri 22 February
INSET day	Mon 25 February (School closed to students)
First Day of Term 4	Tues 26 February
Exam Week Y7-Y10 & Y12	Tues 26 February – Fri 1 March
National Careers Week	Mon 4 March – Fri 9 March
Dance in Action	Weds 6 March 7.00 to 8.30pm
Careers Fair	Thurs 7 March
Science Week	Mon 11 March – Fri 15 March
Y8 Charity Week	Mon 11 March – Fri 15 March
National Theatre Connections	Mon 11 March
Performance Evening	
Lions Concert	Thurs 14 March 6.00 – 8.00pm
Red Nose Day	Fri 15 March
Year 11 & Year 13 Exam Week	Mon 18 March – Fri 22 March
Y9 Immunisations	Tues 19 March
T-Read	Thurs 21 March
Little Interview	Thurs 28 March
D of E Weekend	Fri 29 March
Celebration Assembly Week	Mon 1 April – Fri 5 April
Ski trip departs	Fri 5 April
Last day of Term 4	Fri 5 April

I hope that you all enjoy a well-earned half-term break where batteries need to be re-charged for a very busy few months ahead. Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Dr Simon Riding
Headteacher