

9th May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Strike action by the National Education Union (NEU)

I would like to thank all parents and students for their patience whilst industrial action by the NEU has been taking place. The NEU has paused any further industrial action during the examination period which commences shortly and finishes mid-June. At the present time the government is refusing to negotiate with teaching unions unlike others. Hopefully this allows time for practical negotiations to recommence to bring an end to the disruption.

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Due to strike action on the original date for this evening I have postponed Year 7 Parents' Evening until **Thursday 8th June**. Hopefully this is enough notice for everyone to make arrangements.

Mobile Phone and Internet Safety

Just as we want to keep our children safe in the real world, we will want to do the same in the virtual world. While it is important that we understand enough about the Internet to keep our children safe from harm, it is equally important that we equip our children with the skills they need to keep themselves safe so that they can experience the Internet positively and responsibly.

Parents please ensure you discuss with your child their use of the internet and ensure enough supervision is in place. For example, 'Air Drop' should either be switched off or on 'contacts only'. If this is left on 'everyone' students are at risk from anyone sending information directly to their phones, this includes at school, on a bus, on a train, in a shop etc. We have also recently become aware of a concerning website www.omegle.com 'talk to strangers'. Whilst users are supposed to be over 18 there is no check on whether this is the case. Anyone can just start talking, via video to a stranger. Please ensure your child is not using this website as the potential for risk is substantial.

Last Day of Half Term / Start of New Half Term

Friday 27th May is the last day of this Half Term. School will finish at 3.10pm. Monday 5th June is the first day of our final half term. 8.40am start.

Year 9 Pathways

I would like to pass on my huge appreciation to parents and students in Year 9 for ensuring all their forms were passed to us so promptly, this has been immensely helpful. All subjects that students picked will run. I have been recruiting heavily and successfully for new staff this September due to current Year 9 moving into Key Stage Four and replacing a much smaller year group as well as increased student numbers in all year groups. Indeed, the school has expanded by 250 students in just over two years, which is quite remarkable.

Senior Leadership Staffing Changes

Due to the substantial growth that has taken place over recent years in the school I have expanded the teaching staff and now also my Senior Team. Mrs Wellspring, Mr Phalora, Mr Singh and Mr Marwaha have now joined my team as Assistant Headteachers. I would also like to welcome Mr Morgan to the school who has also joined us as Assistant Headteacher. Mrs Reeves-Williams has now become Leader of Key Stage Five (Sixth Form) replacing Mrs Wellspring.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

A reminder of our important safeguarding contacts. Much more information can be found on our website.

- Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Stephenson, (Deputy Headteacher)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Ms Wellspring (Assistant Headteacher), Mr Morgan (Assistant Headteacher), Ms Edwards (Leader of Year 11), Mrs Vines (Leader of MFL)
- Child Protection Officer is Mrs Dale.

Please email: cpteam@wexham.slough.sch.uk

What students can do in school to report a concern?

- Tell their trusted adult
- Report anonymously via Confide which is on all school computers
- Click on the link and it will go straight to the CP team: cpteam@wexham.slough.sch.uk

Information for getting help outside of school hours

In urgent or emergency situations during the weekend or holidays, parents/carers should contact their local authority social care team: Slough Children First on 01753 875362 or call emergency services (999/101) directly if required.

STEM Updates (STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

As part of the STEM Bronze Industrial Cadet Awards programme our Year 8 students participated in a national event hosted by General Electric (GE) and Baker Hughes with several schools in England & Wales on Wednesday 26th April. The focus of the workshops was on sustainability and LEAN activities to improve productivity in industry and the student's own work-life balance. This is a fantastic achievement to be nearing completion of their Bronze Industrial Cadet Awards.

Our Year 9 students travelled to Brunel University on Tuesday 24th April to take part in the STEM Taster-day that was being held. The students were able to take participate in 3 STEM workshops that were being run throughout the day, these included robotics; testing bridge material tensile strength and sustainability. The day ended with therapeutic Astronaut training in the dome.

As part leading our local STEM partnership on Wednesday 19th April, the Science department hosted 27 students from Khalsa Primary School who carried out a number of Physics and Biology experiments (circuits and reactions times) and were demonstrated Chemistry (Alkali metals with water and the Magnesium and Silver Nitrate explosion). This was a fantastic event coupled with really positive feedback from the Head of KS2 at Khalsa, *'Brilliant hands on session-can we come again'*.

Year 12 UCAS preparation

On Thursday 20th April, all our Year 12 students visited the Farnborough UCAS Higher Education Exhibition. It was an excellent opportunity for them to gain a broader understanding of the programmes available to them at universities across the country and to speak to the Representatives to gain a better understanding and insight into pursuing higher education.

Year 7 Orienteering

On Thursday 20th April a team of Year 7 students competed in a Slough Schools Orienteering competition at Upton Court Park, they showed so much enthusiasm, and worked well together as a team, they finished in second place which is fantastic achievement.

Morph's Epic Adventure

Our Morph statue is finally complete! He was packaged up and sent off to London to be displayed in the UK's first step free Art trail. The final design was taken from a mixture of student entries and the paint work was completed by two of our year 9 students who gave up their lunchtimes and Wednesday after school to work on it. The art trail is free to visit and goes live on the 19th June - 20th August. The link to the website is [Morph's Epic Art Adventure London | Wild In Art & Whizz-Kidz \(morphsadventurelondon.com\)](http://Morph's Epic Art Adventure London | Wild In Art & Whizz-Kidz (morphsadventurelondon.com)).

Yours faithfully



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher

Remaining Term and Important Dates 2022 – 2023

Summer Term	Friday 27 th May 2023	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June 2023	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 5 th June 2023	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Friday 21 st July 2023	Last Day of Term for students. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm.