

5th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

The school has had a very successful half term. Despite the winter weather there has been a plethora of activities taking place. Thank you for all the continuing support you provide for your children in their learning and helping us to ensure they enjoy and achieve.

Last Day of Half Term

Friday 9th February is the last day of this half term. School will finish at 3.10pm and reopen to all students on Monday 19th February at the normal time.

Free School Meals

The government has provided additional funding to local authorities to support students on Free School Meals over the holidays. This will follow the same format as previous vouchers and will be emailed to those parents it concerns.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

There has been a change to the published date for the Year 9 Parents' Evening. This will now be held on Thursday 18th April. We apologise for this change but hopefully with such early notice this will ensure high attendance.

Non-Uniform Day

The school held a non-uniform day on Wednesday 13th December which raised over £659 and was split between Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Appeal and ICRC (International Red Cross and Red Crescent) appeal for humanitarian aid in Gaza.

Complaints

Obviously, we always aim to do the best we can but sometimes things do go wrong. Should a parent wish to make a complaint there are instructions on our website in the 'Contact Us' section and our Complaints Policy can be found in the 'About US' section under policies. It is important that the procedure outlined in the policy is followed. We aim to resolve all complaints to the satisfaction of all parties; however, the policy also contains advice on how to escalate a complaint. We receive very few complaints and those that we do are normally always resolved. Our policy also outlines what we consider to be vexatious complaints and how the school could handle these.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy on the Governing Board for parent. If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, please see my letter which has also been posted on our website.

A selection of our extracurricular and extended learned opportunities during this Half Term

- On Monday the 8th January, Year 12 Humanities students visited Shrewsbury Prison, this is a decommissioned Victorian prison. They had a great time learning about how the various aspects of the prison. They put their teamwork and problem- solving skills to the test trying to break out of a prison cell.
- On Thursday 11th January, 21 KS4 students visited Charles Dickens' former house in London where they were led on a guided tour. They saw Dickens' actual writing desk, walked through his living quarters and learned about social class in the Victorian Era.
- On Friday 12th January, the Year 11 Art and Photography students enjoyed a trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

- On Tuesday 16th January. The Year 10 and Post 16 students had an inspirational TED talk by Mervyn Lyn, former Head of Black Music at Virgin Records, then Sony before being General Manager of Motown International in New York. Students heard anecdotes of the artists he has worked with from 'Usher' to 'Notorious B.I.G.' and 'Alicia Keys. His greatest inspiration and collaboration being Stevie Wonder. His current business model maximises the revenue potential and brand worth of clients in both music and sport.
- A group of Year 7 students attended a Multi-Sport Event on Thursday 18th January at The Centre in Slough. Organised by the Slough School Sport & Physical Activity Network, this event provided students with the opportunity to participate in some new activities including fencing, speed stacking, kinball and wallball.
- On Friday 19th January, Year 10 GCSE Drama students took part in a workshop run by Splendid Productions Company.
- Students from Years 10 and 12 took part in the UKMT Maths Challenge Competition. This is the first competition, for many years due to the pandemic, so the Maths team were very excited by its return.
- On Friday 9th February, 60 Year 9 students will be taking part in the enterprise workshop with The Princess Trust.
- On Friday 23rd February and Friday 1st March, Year 9 students will be visiting the Imperial War Museum.

Mobile Phones

We have a very clear policy on the use of mobile phone. Mobile Phones can be brought to school in order to support student's safety on the way to and from school. However, they **MUST NEVER** disrupt a lesson and should never be seen in lessons. Mobile phones can be used sensibly at break and lunchtimes, BUT NOT between lessons. HEADPHONES cannot be used in school and therefore should not be seen. This is for Health and Safety reasons.

Mobile phones and headphones will be confiscated if the above is not followed and a parent/carer will need to collect them from reception, no exception. To act as a deterrent for future misuse the school will hold mobile phones until the next school day. If your child's phone is confiscated on a Monday the earliest it can be collected is on Tuesday, if it is confiscated on a Friday then it will be retained over the weekend and can be collected on Monday. I am aware this may prove unpopular, **simply** make sure your child uses their phone responsibly and there will be no issue. This of course only effects a very small number of children and will mean our policy is even stronger with less disruption to lesson. Should a child refuse to hand over their phone this will be treated as defiance.

Emergency Closure

A reminder of our emergency closure procedure.

- The decision to close the school outside of core hours will be taken by 7.30am after an assessment of poor weather conditions or on the advice of Slough Borough Council or the emergency services. We will always aim to contact parents by text message as early as possible; normally this would be by 7.45am, before students leave for school. Messages will also be displayed on the school website.
- Should the school be forced to close during the day, or your child has arrived on school premises in the morning, you will be contacted before we send students home.
- Further text messages and our website will update parents of our situation. For this reason, it is always vital that the school has up to date contact details.

Thank you for your continuing support and I wish everyone a happy and restful half term holiday.

Yours faithfully



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher

Term and Important Dates 2023 – 2024

Spring Term	Tuesday 6 th February 2024	Year 8 Parents' Evening
	Friday 9 th February 2024	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February 2024	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 19 th February 2024	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Thursday 29 th February 2024	Year 10 Parents' Evening
	Tuesday 12th March 2024	Year 9 Parents' Evening CANCELLED
	Thursday 28 th March 2024	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm.
	Friday 29 th March to Friday 12 th April 2024	Easter Holiday
Summer Term	Monday 15 th April 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Tuesday 16 th April 2024	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Thursday 18th April	Year 9 Parents' Evening (NEW DATE)
	Thursday 25 th April 2024	Year 7 Parents' Evening
	Monday 6 th May 2024	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
	Friday 24 th May 2024	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 27 th May to Friday 31 st May 2024	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 3 rd June 2024	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Thursday 25 th July 2024	Last Day of Term for students. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm.

Term and Important Dates 2024 – 2025

*subject to change

Autumn Term	Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Wednesday 4 th September 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Thursday 5 th September 2024	First Day of Term for Students in Year 7 only 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 6 th September 2024	Year 7 - 8.35 for 8.40am start* Year 10 and 11 First Day of Term 8.35 for 8.40am start*
	Monday 9 th September 2024	Year 8 and 9 First Day of Term 8.35 for 8.40am start*
	Tuesday 10 th September 2024	Year 12 and 13 First Day of Term 8.35 for 8.40am start*
	Thursday 24 th October 2024	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Friday 25 th October 2024	Staff ONLY Day – INSET*
	Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November 2024	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 4 th November 2024	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 20 th December 2024	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
Monday 23 rd December 2024 to Friday 3 rd January 2025	Christmas Holiday	
Spring Term	Monday 6 th January 2025	Staff ONLY Day – INSET*
	Tuesday 7 th January 2025	First Day of Term. All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 14 th February 2025	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st February 2025	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 24 th February 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 5 th April 2025	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
Monday 7 th April to Monday 21 st April 2025	Easter Holiday	
Summer Term	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Staff ONLY Day – INSET*
	Wednesday April 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Monday 5 th May 2025	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
	Friday 23 rd May 2025	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May 2025	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 2 nd June 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Wednesday 23 rd July 2025	Last Day of Term for students School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm