

25th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers

The school has had a very successful half term. 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

Thursday 28th March is the last day of the Spring Term. The school will operate its customary compact day and will close at 1pm. The school will reopen to all students on Tuesday 16th April 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. However, Slough have informed us that they are yet to confirm the amount and are unsure of when they can release funds. Potentially this could be after the holidays themselves. Clearly this is not helpful but is beyond the school's control. Should this situation change, we will inform you and you are more than welcome to contact Slough Borough Council on this matter.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

As previously informed, there has been a change to the publish 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 Friday 15th March in aid of Comic Relief. Money is still coming in from all the events that took place but has now exceeded £1000. Thank you to everyone that has contributed.

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 are 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 will handle these.

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 student's 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.

A selection of our extracurricular and extended learned opportunities this half term (all within about two weeks!)

- On 13th March A group of Year 8 girls participated in a session held by GE Healthcare focused on professional development and vocations.
- On 14th March A group of Year 9 students visited PwC Reading for a series of workshops in data analytics, product analysis and marketing.
- On 14th March 31 Year 12 students took part in STEM workshops onsite delivered by The University of Reading.
- On 20th March A group of Year 9 student attended workshops at Brunel University as part of their STEM Taster Day including robotic coding, designing model cars and bridge building.
- As part of Wexham's commitment to supporting primary schools in STEM we continue to have Year 5 Students from Khalsa Primary attending a series of Science Workshops.
- On Thursday 14th March GCSE Year 10 and 11 Drama students visited the Aldwych Theatre to see Tina the Musical for their Section B exam.
- 12 Year 9 students have graduated from 'The Brilliant Club' project at the University of Southampton, having completed a 1300 word thesis exploring emotional health in schools. Students participated in a series of seminars lead by Husna Hejazi, PHD student from York University, before they began writing. Students were visibly proud of their achievement as they walked up to the stage of a packed auditorium amongst 10 other schools and enjoyed a keynote speech from the CEO of The Brilliant Club who emphasised their great achievement, followed by an aspirational speech by a former, alumni of the programme, who is now at university.
- We are excited to share that our school hosted an international exchange with the Affiliated High School of Peking University (Dalton Academy), fostering cross-cultural connections and enriching our educational journey knowledge and experience. Year 10 students and staff alike immersed themselves in a day filled with cultural exchange, collaborative learning, and shared experiences.

Mobile Phones

We have a very clear policy on the use of mobile phones. These 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. 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.

As you will be aware there is new government guidance in regards to mobile phone usage in school. The strengthening of our policy is also in response to this. However, the vast majority of issues we have with social media usage originates outside of the school day, therefore banning mobile phones during the school day will have no impact on this. We use mobile phones to aid learning and organisation for our students in many cases, they rarely disrupt lessons. The most helpful thing that can be done by parents is to monitor your child's phone usage whilst they are with you, as I am sure most of you do. Unusually, and primarily in Year 8, a particular concern this year has been children returning after a holiday period where some have spent the holiday using social media inappropriately. Please monitor what your child is doing online. Cyber Bullying of any kind is illegal and can be reported to the police and anyone over the age of 10 can be prosecuted for this.

Staffing changes

We have several staff leaving at the end of this term.

- After joining in September 2022 Mrs Sheehan, Leader of Year 11 is departing us. I would like to thank her for all her work with Year 11 who have become a so much more cohesive and forward thinking under her guidance and leadership. Ms Edwards will look after Year 11 for the remainder of the Year.
- Mrs Fatoux is also leaving us after nearly 6 years. We thank her for all her work in the MFL department and especially for last year's residential trip to France. We wish her all the best in her new school.
- Mrs Theis, our SENDCO, is also leaving us at Easter after nearly 8 years in the school. Mrs Theis has contributed incredibly successfully to the school over this time and has helped to shape our provision for some of our most vulnerable children. We wish Mrs Theis all the very best success in her new role as an Assistant Headteacher in her new school. For the remainder of the year matters relating to SEN will be overseen by Mr Morgan, the ARB continues of course to be overseen by Mrs Curran.
- Mr Hussain, Leader of Year 10, is also departing us at the end of this term. I would like to thank Mr Hussain for all his hard work in RE, a department which consistently gets some of our highest GCSE results, and his work with Year 10 who are one of our highest achieving and best-behaved year groups ever. We wish Mr Hussain every success in his new school as an Assistant Headteacher. Ms Facer, Leader of Geography, will be taking over responsibility for Year 10 until the end of term.

We also have several new staff joining us soon. This includes Mr Alami-Chouni (Teacher of Mathematics) and Mrs Krishnappen (Teacher of Computing) who will both be joining us after Easter, these are new positions in the school. Mrs Gillet (Teacher of MFL) will be starting in May. Mrs Moosa, our new Leader of RE will be starting June. Also starting in June will be Mrs Bagga (Teacher of Social Science) and Mr Lee (Teacher of English), both of which are new positions to the school. The new positions I have created are due to the school continuing to grow, particularly now our much larger year groups will begin to transfer into our Sixth Form in September.

Thank you for your continuing support and I wish everyone a happy and restful holiday. A special message also to all our students, parents and staff that are currently partaking in the holy month of Ramadan, I know this period of time is very special and as EID also falls in the holidays this year, I wish everyone Eid Mubarak in advance.

Yours faithfully



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher

Term and Important Dates 2023 – 2024

Spring Term	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 4 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