

23<sup>rd</sup> May 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**

The last day of this Half Term is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. The school will reopen to all students on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 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 has been processed in the normal way for this half term.

### **Year 9 Pathways**

Thank you to all parent/carers for supporting Year 9 Pathway choices this year. It has been a very smooth process. All students will be given their first choice of subjects.

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

- I would like to congratulate Kavya in Year 7 who has won a country wide competition with over 10,000 applicants. Kavya won the prestigious title 'National Engineer' and will be attending an awards ceremony at the University of Southampton soon.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> May Year 8 girls took part in a General Electric Vernova Event at Wexham. Year 8 students were engaged in interactive sessions with female entrepreneurs, gaining valuable insights into how they achieved their career goals in the Energy Sector. The event empowered the students to pursue their own career paths with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.
- Year 7 have been taking part in Level 2 Bikeability this year. Mrs Beatty said, 'the participating students were so well behaved and I was really proud of how they carried themselves out on the road. They were supportive of each other and made sure they were always safe'. Instructors were very impressed with the students' skills and are hoping to invite some students to take part in the Level 3 Bikeability programme.
- 45 students from across all year groups took part in District Athletics at Thames Valley Stadium on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Congratulations to everyone that took part.
- Year 12 Girls attended their final Brunel University STEM workshop and were awarded their certificates for completion of this University STEM programme.
- We have held the Junior UKMT Maths challenge again this year and Wexham has had even more success, at this level, in the National Competition. 20 successful Key Stage Three students have been rewarded with certificates.
- Year 8 students Rhea, Likhitha, Sehardeep, Amna and Kian have been awarded gold certificate as 'Climate Detectives'. This is an annual project run by the European Space Agency to encourage young people to learn more about earth. These students have dedicated a lot of their spare time completing mini geographical investigations to deepen their geographical knowledge.

- Year 7 SEND student took part in a 'Move Now' Festival for all Slough Schools run by SSSN and Allianz on Friday 3rd May at Wexham, a group of Year 7 students took part in a physical activity festival hosted by the Youth Sport Trust in our sports hall. Across a range of activity stations our students took part in various activities based on aim, co-ordination and teamwork, and it was no doubt a valuable experience for them that will have helped build their confidence and enjoyment of exercise. Helping to run the day was our Year 12 Sports Leaders who were fantastic.
- Congratulations to our Year 8 girls American Flag Football team who had a great win this week, beating Cranford Community College 42-20. The girls also completed in a 'Championship' day on Monday 20th May with great success.

### **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. Since I introduced this policy, it has settled and is working effectively.

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. 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**

I would like to welcome to the school Ms Moosa who will be starting with us on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Ms Moosa is replacing Mr Hussain as our Leader of Religious Education.

There are also some substantial changes taking place to pastoral leadership after Half Term, this is to allow Mrs Beatty (permanent Leader of Year 7) to focus on transition with Year 6 and prepare them for joining us in September and Year 9 to make the transition to Key Stage Four.

- Mrs Bahra, who is currently Leader of Year 8, will take over our current Year 7 from 3<sup>rd</sup> June.
- Mr George will be directly leading our current Year 8 from 3<sup>rd</sup> June.
- Mr George will continue to oversee Years 7 and 8 as Leader of Key Stage Three.
- Ms Edwards, Leader of Key Stage Four will oversee Ms Tidey and Year 9 as soon Year 11 have finished their exams.

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

Yours faithfully



Mr Lawrence Smith  
**Headteacher**

## Term and Important Dates 2023 – 2024

Summer Term	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	First Day of Term for Students in <b><u>Year 7 only</u></b> 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Year 8 and 9 First Day of Term 8.35 for 8.40am start*
	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Year 12 and 13 First Day of Term 8.35 for 8.40am start*
	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Christmas Holiday	
Spring Term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	First Day of Term. All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Easter Holiday	
Summer Term	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025	Last Day of Term for students School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm