

24 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As always, it was a pleasure to welcome the children back after half term and listen to all the things they spent their half term doing. Lots of these things have made it into the student briefings as part of 'Character Caught' and it is great to see the children so keen to share these things and allow us to celebrate them collectively.

I led assemblies for all year groups and started the week with a bespoke assembly for Year 11 which explored qualifications versus earning potential. I showed students various monthly payments that they will have to pay in later life, council tax, mortgage/rent etc to show how little disposable income may be left depending on salary. I also made it clear that if any student has not started revising yet, there is still time as long as they approach is systematically.

For Years 7-10 I led an assembly on the school value of Honesty which I explored through Roald Dahl's, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The assembly took many of the students back to fond memories of reading the book in Primary School but focused on the decisions Charlie made in relation to the ever-lasting gobstopper and how honesty leads to trust. As always, the children engaged really well and were keen to offer contributions to the story.

In relation to our Careers Education Advice and Guidance programme, Mrs Knight has organised for every Year 10 student to have the opportunity to be interviewed by someone from industry to practise their interviewing skills. The first of these interviews took place this week and the Year 10 students were very grateful for the experience. These interviews will continue over the course of the next couple of weeks and will help prepare students for job interviews in later life.

I met with our Head Students, King and Summer, to get their input on designs for the toilet refurbishments which will hopefully take place during the summer holidays. It was important to have some student voice on this particularly as we are intending to replace all three of the main toilet blocks across the building which will make a huge difference to the environment for the children.

Year 11 have been busy in lessons preparing for their second round of mock examinations which are taking place over the next two weeks and start on Monday. The school day timings will be amended as usual to accommodate the exams and so lunch will be between period 3 and 4 as opposed to between periods 4 and 5. This will be the case for the next two weeks.

On Thursday we welcomed parents and carers of Year 12 and 13 students into the Sixth Form building to meet with teachers and get feedback on how your child is currently progressing with their Key Stage 5 studies. If any of you were unable to make the evening please do not hesitate to contact your son or daughter's teacher directly to get some feedback.

With regards to the parent/carer survey, thank you to those of you who completed it. I have spent some time going through all the feedback and will be writing to you next week with a summary and our plans to address the areas for improvement.

One thing that was raised several times was the parking on Greening Road at pick up and drop off so please can I ask for your support in not parking on any of the zig-zags to prevent obstructions and to allow the buses to enter and leave the site without issues. Your support with this is much appreciated.

In terms of top praise point earners this week:

Year Group	3 rd place	2 nd place	1 st place	Average
7	Ade O – 22	Viki D – 22	Matthew W – 23	8 points
8	Sayuru G – 24	Olivia E – 24	Henry K – 27	7 points
9	Alex J – 27	Delin F – 30	Lewis C – 30	8 points
10	Annabel B – 19	Charlie H – 21	Arabella C – 22	8 points
11	Kevin B – 13	Grace H – 14	Poppy M – 17	4 points

The top forms for attendance this week were:

1st place was 11ABI – Mrs Briffa – 98.71%

2nd place was 7TRC – Mrs Childs – 97.6%

3rd place was 10IJA – Mr Lea – 97.59%

On the theme of praise, I am also in the process of writing to the parents of all students who are making excellent progress based on the academic reports you should now have all received.

Have a pleasant and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines
Principal