

Monday 28th June, 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

End of Term and much more...

I hope you are all well and looking forward to what will hopefully be a summer with a more normal feel to it. The end of term, indeed the end of the year, is fast approaching so I thought this is an apposite time to write to parents with end of term arrangements and some other important updates.

End of Term

Term ends at 12.45pm on Friday 16th July; the last day of term will be a free non-uniform day. Students in receipt of free school meals may, if they wish, stay for lunch before they leave.

Awards Assemblies

We will be holding our annual Awards Assemblies week beginning 5th of July. Due to COVID we are unable to welcome parents this year but many of you will be delighted I'm sure when your child returns home with a well-deserved award – let's hope we can invite parents back in next year!

Sports Day

On Monday 12th July we will be holding our annual sports day. This is always an exciting day and culminates in the House Cup being awarded. Students should come to school wearing their PE kit (bottom half) and a top in their house colour (top half). They should also come to school expecting any weather condition – i.e. water bottle, sun cream, sun hat and warm top!! Keep an eye on our face book page and twitter for news throughout the day and to find out which house emerges triumphant!

'Walk the Capitals' Charity day in support of Asthma UK

On Thursday 15th July we will be holding our final charity day of the year in support of Asthma UK and in remembrance of Becky Smith, our Year 10 student who very sadly died in January. Over the course of the day we will all take part in a walk equivalent to walking to all of the Capital cities of the UK – approximately 1150 miles. The day will be a non-uniform day and students should each pay at least £1 which will go to Asthma UK. Students should wear blue on the day which was Becky's favourite colour. Once again, keep an eye on our face book page and twitter for news throughout the day.

Staff leaving, staff joining

This year we are saying good bye and good luck to three of our teaching staff. Mr Kelly (Head of Years 10 and 11) has secured a promotion at a school in Lichfield and Miss Hawkins (English Teacher) has secured a promotion at the John Taylor Free School. Mrs Hollywood, one of our co-heads of Art, is also leaving us and relocating, with her family, to Worcestershire. We thank them all for their tireless service to our school community and wish them good luck in their future endeavours.

I am very excited to announce that we have four new specialist teachers joining us in September. They are Miss Page (English); Mr Wimmer (Physics); Mrs Spencer (History); Miss Sargent (Art). I am sure that we will all welcome them to our community.



Mrs Boddice will start a new role in September as Assistant Head of Year – Student Support Officer. Her role is full time non-teaching, which will allow her to respond quickly to minor pastoral issues and concerns as they arise. On most occasions, she will be your first point of contact in school. From September 1st, Mrs Lester will be Head of Transition and Years 7 and 8 and Mr Peach will be Head of Years 9 to 11.

Start of Term

Our new school year starts on Friday 3rd September for our new Year 7 and Year 12 students and then all students will be back at 8.30am on Monday 6th September.

School Uniform

We have made one minor change to our uniform for September. Students will no longer be allowed to wear the blue PE hoodie in lessons or around school; it will be strictly reserved for PE lessons. All students, except our Year 11 prefects, must wear the embroidered burgundy sweatshirt and/or hoodie over a white embroidered or plain polo shirt. Trousers must be of the right material and skirts must be the appropriate length. Our footwear requirements have not changed. They remain *'Plain black standard leather style shoes only; No boots, higher than ankle high, or shoes with high heels should be worn; Pumps, trainers or trainer style shoes (often displayed in the school shoes section of shops) are not permitted.'*

All other requirements, including hair, make-up, nails and jewellery, remain the same and can be read in the uniform policy on our website:

<https://www.paulet.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/IPM-School-Uniform-Procedure-09-16-BI-ANNUALLY.pdf>

As in previous years, I have set up a dedicated email address for shoe (and indeed uniform) enquiries over the summer holiday. Please feel free to email with a picture of a pair of shoes if you are unsure as to their suitability. You will get a reply usually within two days.

shoes@phs.jtmat.co.uk

In September we intend to start using the PE changing rooms again so students will stop wearing their PE kit to school – I must say, that will be a relief to us all!

COVID Keeps

Over the last few months I have sought the opinions of students, staff, parents and governors about what we may and may not keep once the pandemic has subsided enough for it to be deemed a 'normal situation' once again. Final decisions haven't yet been made but it is very likely that we will keep the one-way systems, double lessons, year group breaks and Year 7 and 8 having their own dining and outside play area. We will certainly start the year with these in place as we still don't know when normality will return.

...and finally!

Thank you all so much for the unswerving support over what has been a very difficult school year (and a bit). Overwhelmingly, our parents have supported our decisions and sent caring and helpful messages – often just at the right time! In September we welcome our largest ever year group of 173 students – 23 over our 'planned admission number'. This is testament to all of us working together to create a safe, harmonious and ambitious community.

I hope we all have a calm and fun last three weeks of term and then enjoy a very well-earned summer holiday.

Kind Regards



Ian McArthur
Headteacher