

Friday 10th March 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Thank you!

For your support this week with some disruption due to snow. We tried to minimise disruption as far as possible, but I know it will have inconvenienced some parents. We try to get messages out in a timely manner but it is not always possible.

Non-uniform day – 17th February

The non-uniform day we held on Friday 17th February raised £617.43 which will be split equally between the two charities – ‘Tilly’s Voice’ and ‘The Armed Forces Charity’. Thank you for your support.

Comic Relief Day – Friday 17th March – **NEXT FRIDAY**

As I wrote in my last letter, we are going to embrace Comic Relief Day this year. Mrs Deer has met the Student Council this week to plan the day. It will be a free non-uniform day; students should bring some money (£2ish) to spend on activities that will take place around the school during lesson 5. Each form group is organising an activity so it should be a fun afternoon raising money for the Comic Relief Charity. Activities include a BBQ, cake sale, 6th Form v Staff sport, badge making, teachers in the stocks, a raffle and a press-up competition.



Teacher strike

The next dates that some teachers will be striking are Wednesday and Thursday the 15th and 16th March. Like the previous days, I am anticipating that all students will be in school – I will write with details if that changes. Some lessons will be supervised and not taught so it is important for students to have a reading book with them, and it is imperative that Year 11 and Year 13 students have revision materials with them.

Trips and excursions

The 6th Form trip to New York and Washington was amazing thanks in no small part to the students who were exemplary throughout (although I was shocked at how much money they had saved up to spend). 90 students in Year 8 and 9 are heading off to Paris in two weeks and I know they’ll have a great time too. We have just advertised, and filled, the 2024 Paris trip, to our current Year 7 students, and the 2024 skiing trip will be advertised very soon. As I told you all last time, we are currently planning our Duke of Edinburgh’s Award expeditions and Year 7 camp and the students have been consulted about preferences for reward and end of year trips. It is so pleasing to see our trips all coming back now after the pandemic hiatus.



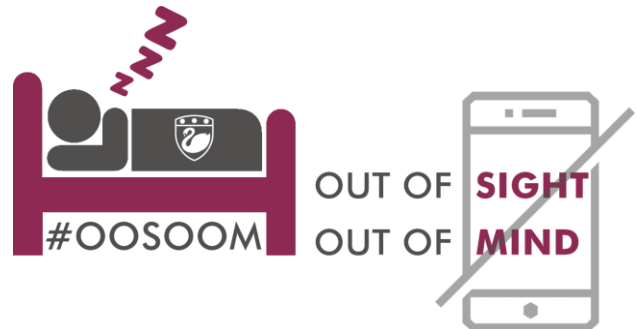
Book Fair



We have a book fair in school from the 27th to the 31st March and it will be open on the Year 7 Parents' Evening too (Thursday 30th March). There will be hundreds of very reasonably priced books and a range of stationery available to buy. Students can pay cash or parents can buy pre-paid gift vouchers by visiting <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers> or pre-pay for books by visiting <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay>

Out of sight...out of mind – OOSOOM!

I haven't talked about 'out of sight...out of mind' for quite some time so I think it is an apposite time to do so. There is more and more evidence, now long-term research has been carried out, that unfettered and long-term use of mobile phones can seriously affect a child's mental health (actually... adults too). The rise in the use of social media platforms like Tik Tok is alarming to me as both a headteacher and father. We recently strengthened our mobile phone rules and I won't hesitate to go further if I feel we need to. 'Out of sight...out of mind' is designed to encourage all parents to ensure their child's mobile phones are switched off and not in bedrooms at night. This one simple thing allows our children to sleep soundly without disturbance. I know a great many of you ensure this happens already – as I do with my own Year 10 and Year 7 daughters. If you need support just drop your child's Head of Year an email.



As always, thank you for your ongoing support of our school and your child's education.

Kind regards,

Ian McArthur
Headteacher.
#WEAREPAULET