

20 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the weekly newsletter.

Strike Action

As you are aware, teachers in the National Education Union have voted to take strike action and this will affect schools in the North West on four days – 1st February, 28th February, 16th March and 17th March. We are currently drawing up plans for the first of these strike days in just under 2 weeks' time and I will send out details as soon as possible. As I write, I do not know how many teachers are or are not likely to be in work that day and so I need to give warning that we may have to close to some year groups to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those in school. Once decisions have been made I will inform you.

The School Day

The Government's expectation is that from September 2023 schools have a 32.5 hour school week. We are currently ten minutes a day short of this. I am therefore launching a consultation to extend the school day by 10 minutes so that we start 5 minutes earlier and finish 5 minutes later. I need to consult with staff, parents, the Local Authority and the Transport companies. The proposal will be:

Current

Warning bell 8.50 a.m.
Mentor time 8.55 – 9.15 a.m.
Break 11.15 – 11.30 a.m.
End of Day 3.10 p.m.

From September 2023

Warning bell 8.45 a.m.
Mentor time 8.50 – 9.15 a.m.
Break 11.15 – 11.35 a.m.
End of Day 3.15 p.m.

If you have any feedback on this proposal please do send it into school by 22 February 2023.

Year 10

The Parents' Evening for Year 10 will take place on school cloud on Thursday 26 January from 4.00 p.m. Please ensure you have booked appointments with staff to discuss the progress of your sons and daughters.

Year 11

The behaviour of Year 11 during the mock exam week has been excellent and students will be getting those results in the next few weeks. We saw real progress in the mock data from the November exams and I hope we will see that same promising data in these exams. Students need to be in the habit of ongoing revision over the next five months so that information is in their long term memory. 2 hours per night is what is expected and needed for real success!

Blackpool Sixth Form are holding a revision event for French and Spanish on Tuesday 7th and Tuesday 21st February at 4.00 p.m. Please go to www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/languagerevision2023 to book.



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Headteacher Mr A Waller, MA, BA Hons
Deputy Headteacher Miss A Jordinson, BSc Hons

Uniform & Leisure Sale

The Uniform & Leisure shop in Kirkham are having a 10% sale on all items in store 23-28th January. Please see attached flyer for further information.

Softball

Please find attached a poster regarding U16's GB Softball with a taster session on 4th February.

LGBTQ+

I am pleased to say that the school has submitted its final evidence for the Rainbow Flag Award. I am very grateful to the staff and students who have put the effort into preparing this. We should find out relatively soon if this award has been achieved.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Mrs Beckett has been speaking to Year 9 this week about the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is a fantastic opportunity to develop skills, push boundaries and get a nationally recognised award. If your son or daughter is in Year 9 please encourage them to think about this. Some of last year's cohort are now moving on to the Silver award.

Social Media

Last week I referred to national concerns in schools about the influence of Andrew Tate and his extreme views. As a school we would always challenge such thinking and to help parents/carers the National Online Safety Organisation has produced some guidance. This can be found at

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/webinar/social-media-influencers>

I have also attached a poster on social media and mental health for information.

Yesterday evening I had the pleasure of attending the presentations for our PolyMaths Group. Twenty year 11 boys have spent Friday evenings debating, discussing and researching a whole range of topics from the History of the Premier League to the Renaissance, the different understandings of mental illness to criteria for a successful prison system. The time and effort that has gone into this programme to extend their knowledge and just show a sheer love of learning was superb. A huge thank you to Mr Churm who has co-ordinated this group – well done to them all.

Yours faithfully



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Headteacher



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