

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we were saddened as a school community by the death of Ms Coby Mckeon just six months after her retirement. Ms Mckeon had been on the staff here for 23 years and was a very inspirational English teacher as well as Assistant Headteacher. As Assistant Head, Ms Mckeon was very involved with transition work from Year 6, welfare and safeguarding and so built up a great relationship with the primary schools alongside having a very comprehensive knowledge about all our students. It was, for all of us, a privilege and pleasure to know and work alongside Ms Mckeon as it was a privilege and pleasure to be taught by her for so many students over the years. She will be sadly missed and our sympathies go out to her husband and family. There is a book of condolence in the school reception.



School League tables are published today for 2017 results. We accept these results were disappointing at KS4 but, as Ofsted recognised, the curriculum and exam entry patterns had a big impact on the overall Progress score with only 64% of the students entered for the qualifying 8 subjects. The curriculum and exam entry patterns are now very different with almost 90% of the cohort having the qualifying subjects and many more students taking a Modern Language. We will continue to work daily for the success and progress of all our students and anticipate a very different picture with the 2018 results.

On Tuesday this week we had a very successful Mental health and resilience day for our Year 9 students. One parent who works in mental health said this was pitched superbly and at the right age as she sees a lot of young people with the issues which were covered. Thank you to the staff who arranged and delivered this really important day.

On Wednesday students in Years 9-11 also had input from the multi agency sexual exploitation team as part of our concern to raise awareness of potential dangers and how to deal with them.

Early next week I will send out details of a consultation that is being held on two aspects of the school. Since the start of the academic year, Governors, Staff, the junior leadership team and the Parents Forum have discussed some of the strengths and potential drawbacks of the current College pastoral system and details will be sent out regarding a proposed restructure of the system and the rationale for it. Last year we consulted on the school day and while it was not possible to change the start and end time of the school day we did move mentor time to the beginning of the day and this has proved a good step forward. We would however like to consult now on the timing of lunch which many consider to be currently too late in the day.

A number of you have purchased Chromebooks for your child to assist them in learning independently, creatively, collaboratively and to communicate effectively anywhere and at any time. It is an expectation that any student with a chromebook should bring this to school each day. Chromebooks will be checked as part of the daily equipment check during registration, if there are any issues with the device this should be raised with IT services or your child's mentor. If your child has a chromebook and does not bring it to school they will receive a signature on their P Card. Please speak with your child's mentor should you have any further questions.

With Year 8 Options Evening and Parents Evening taking place at the beginning of February, please could we remind you all to be considerate when parking, especially around the residential areas surrounding school.

Many thanks and best wishes

Andrew Waller  
Headteacher

### Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 1st February: Year 8 Options Evening

Thursday 8th February: Year 8 Parents Evening

Friday 9th February: School Closes for half term

Monday 19th February: School re-opens

Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd February: Dance Display, 6.45pm

## Outstanding Achievement Awards:



Rico  
Apollo College



Wyatt  
Ceres College



Wyatt  
Juno College



Caitlin  
Mercury College



Tyler  
Minerva College



Madison  
Poseidon College

Well done to all these students who have achieved a superb number of merits this week.

## Focus on: Mental Health Enrichment Day

Year 9 students have been learning how good choices can positively impact our mental health.

The students spent a day exploring various topics all of which have been proven to impact our mental health. The enrichment day was part of their Personal Social and Health Education and covered topics such as depression, anxiety, anger management, drug and alcohol use and happiness.

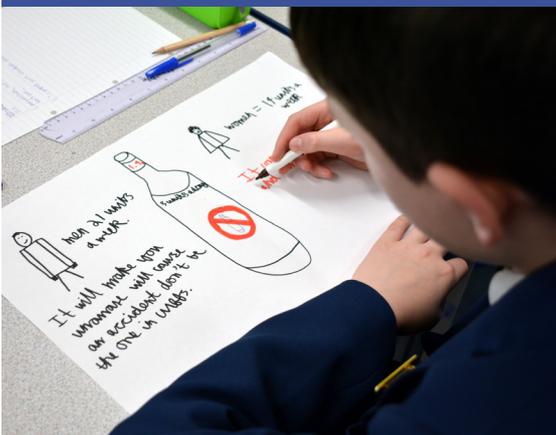
Personal Development Leader Mr Beale said, "The mental health enrichment day is designed to offer students the opportunity to consider how the choices they make can impact on their mental, as well as physical health. It provides them with a broader knowledge of the world around them and more understanding about some of the issues many people face on a daily basis".

Students Yolanda and Nyimbwa enjoyed participating in the day, particularly in the sessions around depression and anxiety. Nyimbwa said, "It was really interesting finding out about the symptoms of anxiety or depression, some of them I wouldn't have expected". Yolanda added, "I think that knowing the



information will help me recognise the symptoms if I ever started to feel down and help me to talk to someone about it".

If you're struggling with any issues which are affecting your mental health you can talk to a number of people in school including you college leader, care leader or mentor, or have a look at the Mind website for more information: [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)



## Contact Us:

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