



## Weekly Newsletter      March 18<sup>th</sup>      2022

It is lovely to see the Spring sun shining and I am choosing to view it as a sign which – exactly 2 years to the week since covid first closed the school – points to another large step towards normality. We await the Welsh Government's next announcement on covid measures and hope to see a further relaxation.

Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to the Ukraine appeal. The opportunity to donate items has now passed; these are being packed up by our fantastic student volunteers ready to be sent to where they are needed. Our sixth form team and Interact have also been busy fundraising for the Disaster Emergency Committee Ukraine appeal and are on the way to reaching their target. Thank you to all those who have donated money so far by ParentPay. We will keep this donation option open for a little longer.

The need for humanitarian aid, including medicines, food, clothing and counselling support, will continue in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries for many years so our fundraising efforts are continuing through next week. We would be very grateful if you would help your children to raise sponsorship money for the school Mathathon – a great way to sharpen their math skills and join together to show compassion for those in need.

So far we have raised £4550.

### Covid Information

Please still be reminded of the following:

- The wearing of face masks in classrooms is now optional. We still expect all pupils to wear face masks indoors in communal areas. All pupils must bring a face mask to school.
- Pupils are no longer able to wear their PE kit to school.
- One-way systems apply to Tower Block in Lower School and the Upper School canteen.
- The recommendation is now for two LFD tests per week rather than 3.
- Isolation in instances of a positive covid test is for 5 days. Your child must, though, take LFTs 24 hours apart on day 5 and day 6. If both are negative, they can return to school.
- If either or both are positive, then testing needs to be repeated every 24 hours until 2 consecutive negative LFD tests are received; isolation can end after this.
- Isolation ends after 10 days even if LFTs remain positive. However, if your child is covid symptomatic at this point then they will need to take a PCR test.

**Sister Act**

It has been an absolute privilege to attend the school production of *Sister Act* this week. The talent and hard work on display both on stage and behind the scenes has been breathtaking. We are all so very proud of the young people involved and of what they have achieved. How fabulous (baby!) also to see a live audience in the school again. There are still a few tickets left tonight and tomorrow night if you'd like to join us. You won't regret it!

**Parents Evenings**

Year 13 Parents Evening will take place on March 30th. Letters have been sent via in touch and the appointment system is open.

**Study Leave and Year 13 Induction**

Year 11 study leave starts on Monday 16th May.

Year 12 study leave starts on Monday 16th May, ends on Friday 9th June.

Year 12 induction to Year 13 and Careers Planning week will run from Monday 13th June – Friday 17th June. Details to follow.

Year 13 Study leave starts on Monday 6th June.

**Study Skills**

For the next fortnight the theme for wellbeing and reflection for all year groups is study skills.

We are supporting all of our learners in developing these skills but in particular our examination groups. Sessions will be looking at revision skills, creating revision timetables as well as looking at how to manage mental wellbeing as this can be a very anxious time for all.

**Parent Governor Election**

I am pleased to announce on behalf of the governors the election results of the parent governor ballot, David Revill has been elected.

Many thanks to all who put themselves forward; it was great to have such a strong field of parents committed to the school.

**Year 9 and 11 options and guidance process**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the options and guidance process this year. Every year we look to review and develop the processes that we have in place and would therefore appreciate it if year 9 and 11 students could complete the survey which can be accessed by following the links below:

Year 9: <https://forms.office.com/r/hHZ9SzayFj>

Year 11: <https://forms.office.com/r/iNedRTKbTF>

Learning pathways advice and support will continue to be delivered through wellbeing sessions, with students encouraged to speak to their form teacher if they have any questions moving forward.

Year 11 reports have been issued via the SIMs app this week.

Have a lovely weekend.



Mark Powell