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Head Teacher
Jonathan Graham

3 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

HEAD TEACHER UPDATE

I hope you and your families are all safe and well. The first three weeks of term have passed incredibly quickly, and I'm pleased to report that they have been smooth and productive. I write to provide an update on recent and upcoming developments.

iPads

During the course of the coming week, we will be undertaking iPad health checks for all pupils in S2-S6 to ensure they are all in working order. This will allow us to solve some ongoing niggling issues with some iPads. It is imperative that all pupils in S2 to S6 bring their iPads to school every day next week to ensure we can do this.

I hope to be in a position to issue iPads to S1 very soon.

Target setting

We are making changes to how we report progress for pupils in S3-S6. These changes will provide pupils and parents with more detailed information about their progress. Part of this will involve young people setting target grades for each of their subjects. This will involve each pupil reflecting and deciding on the grade they would like to aim for in each subject. Pupils in S4, S5, and S6 have undertaken some reflection and completed the initial part of the exercise with Pastoral Care teachers this week. Next week they will talk with classroom teachers to refine and finalise their targets for each subject.

S3 pupils will begin the process in two weeks' time, and will set target grades for the end of S4.

These target grades, and progress, will be reported at each reporting point throughout the session. This will be a significant improvement to our approach to reporting and will, I expect, lead to improved results for young people.

Reporting dates

For your information, the first reports for each year group will be as follows:

S1	3 December 2021
S2 and S3	W.C 25 October 2021
S4, S5, and S6	W.C. 4 October 2021

Awards ceremony

To recognise the wonderful achievements of our senior pupils in gaining qualifications, we plan to hold an awards ceremony after the pupil day on Wednesday 6 October. Unfortunately, we will not be able to invite parents to this, but we do intend to 'stream' the event live on YouTube. More information will follow.

Uniform

Thank you for your ongoing support in maintaining a high standard of uniform. We are in the process of issuing lockers to young people which will enable them to store non-uniform items of clothing, rather than wear them to class.



Masks

No letter is complete without an appeal about facemasks! So many of our young people are doing remarkably well with this. Of course, I totally understand that sometimes masks break, and everybody forgets things from time to time. However, school staff are still issuing a phenomenal number of masks and we are using up way too much of our school budget on these. I will be grateful for your continued support in ensuring young people attend school fully equipped with a supply of masks (ideally, a strong, reusable one, along with a spare).

Water

While water is available in school I recommend that pupils bring a bottle of water to school.

I wish everyone a pleasant weekend. I will keep you updated on an ongoing basis.

Yours faithfully,



Jonathan Graham
Head Teacher

