



PDR/SMF

11 February 2022

Dear parents/carers

Unbelievably, this week, we are just half way through the academic year – how time flies. At this point in the year, I would like to update you with some of things we have been doing and plans moving forward.

Covid protocols – face coverings

We are very grateful for the overwhelming response from parents and students for supporting our cautious approach throughout the pandemic, particularly in the last few weeks when infections in school have been higher than ever. We are convinced this has been the correct approach. However, just in the last few days, we have started to see signs of a slowing down in the rate of infections in both students and staff, though the rates are still high. Whilst we are all looking forward to the day we don't feel the need to wear face coverings, we will continue to monitor this daily, in the run up to the half-term holiday and make a final decision on face coverings for our return to school on the Monday 28 February when we have another week's worth of data. I hope that we will have some good news.

House Rewards

You may recall, we introduced an amended system this year for recognising the outstanding achievements of our students. The new system included academic excellence, contributions in lessons, homework and 1898 points for participation in extra-curricular activities. Indeed, we have approximately 70 lunch time or after school clubs or societies being run by staff or students themselves. The response to the new system from students has been phenomenal and we have already hundreds of students achieving the bronze award, with significant numbers going on to the silver, gold and indeed 3 year 13 students have achieved the Headteacher's award which is quite exceptional at this stage of the year. The sense of pride in students being recognised for their endeavours and healthy competition has been a real pleasure to observe.

University Applications

We have had another excellent year with 211 students being made offers to study degrees in many high calibre universities. 5 of these students have places awaiting at Oxford or Cambridge and whilst this may not sound a lot, it is nearly double the national success rate. The pressure is now on for all these students to achieve the grades they need in this summer's exams, but we are sure with the positive attitudes to learning being exhibited in the year group, there will be many successes to celebrate later in the year.

Competitions

We have had great success this year to date, winning the Design Ventura competition at the National Design Museum, as well as winning the Yorkshire and Humber National Cyber Security competition, we are awaiting pending results in the national Mace debating competition and 6 students shortlisted for the Arkwright engineering scholarship. With numerous other entries in the pipeline, it bodes well for more success stories shortly.

Charity

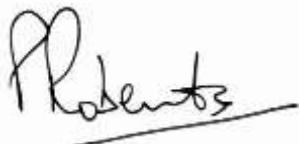
To date, this year we have raised nearly £5500, which has supported: Macmillan, the poppy appeal, Children in Need, St George's Crypt, Candlelighters and most recently Beau's Campaign. With numerous further events already planned, we look like comfortably exceeding our target for this year, which given all the difficulties posed by the pandemic to families, has been a delightful response.

Heckler

In addition to the events mentioned above, you will see many more on a weekly basis in the Heckler - I do encourage you to have a read, to guide you nicely into the weekend each week.

Thank you as ever, for your ongoing support, we really do appreciate it.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Roberts", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Peter Roberts

Headteacher