

February 2017

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SUCCESSFUL
PERSONALISED
PASSIONATE
SUPPORTIVE
COMMUNITY SPIRITED
COMPETITIVE
CELEBRATORY

Headteacher (Acting): Kim Horner BA (Hons), MEd

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we head out of winter into spring, marking the mid-point of the school year, I'd like to update you on how we've moved forward during this academic year.

We have focused, with our students, on closing gaps in their progress through helpful feedback, mentoring and where necessary, different types of interventions. During coming months, particularly for students in Year 11 and Year 13, parents may be informed of interventions (and revision sessions) taking place out of the school day to support their child's progress; it would benefit them enormously if you supported this extra input to ensure their success.

This term we have introduced a focus on student attitudes to learning - you can now see this recorded on Go4Schools. We are determined to encourage all students to be the best that they can be. You have all received a copy of the scale to help you understand what we are aiming to do. Likewise, all students have a copy and it is on display in all classrooms. There is an expectation that all will aim for 0+. Following on from Mrs Andrews' letter about parental use of Go4Schools before half term, she is offering an additional parental workshop on Wednesday 29th March 9.00 - 9.20am for any parents who would like support with navigating the information available. If you would like to reserve a place please contact the school office (office.meridian@rsat.org.uk) by Friday 24th March.

To support positive attitudes to learning, we are reviewing our school behaviour policy. As you will be aware, the majority of our students have super behaviour for learning in school. We are determined to eradicate any behaviours - even if they are low level - that may impact on the learning of others. You will find the updated policy on the website by 17th March.

You may remember that we are focusing on three values this year:

- Successful students
- Passionate students
- Supported and supportive students

I am really impressed with the way our students have embraced these values in tutor groups since September. They have considered each of these values in an effort to help them know what it is to be successful, passionate young people who know how to get the support they need and how they can support others. Everyone has participated in tutor group discussions and competitions to produce displays on each of the values. I am delighted to report that so far, Mrs Dunham and Mr Hamilton's tutor groups have won an extended break and a pizza delivery as prizes.

To support our focus on success and passion, we are introducing a Year 9 and Year 10 university visit. The first of these will take place on March 29 to the University of Reading and a further visit will take place on 30th March to the University of Cambridge. If you have a child in Year 9 and Year 10 that may consider university, please sign up trip if you have not done so already. We really want to give our students as many opportunities to be successful as possible.

We are committed to helping all our students develop a passion for learning and for some, that passion develops out of the classroom. It is important to encourage participation in the many clubs and extra-curricular activities that are on offer (please see the website for details). In particular, I would like to highlight the Duke of Edinburgh's Award which offers a range of skills to young people, starting in Y9. We currently have record numbers completing this award at Bronze and Silver level.

The coming months will be busy ones with students preparing for exams. Some GCSE practicals start in late April and written papers start in mid May for both GCSE and A level. Parental support at home during this time is crucial and students should start their revision programmes in the coming weeks. Further advice and support will be given by Mrs Andrews and the Y11 team.

A huge thank you to Y9 students and parents for prompt return of the option forms. Mr Atkins is already working with the information you have provided to prepare timetables for next year. A number of students expressed on the form which of their 4 option choices were MOST important to them, as well as listing the reserve subjects. If you would still like to provide some of this information, please do so by emailing Mr Atkins at d.atkins@rsat.org.uk as soon as possible.

There are some key dates which I would like to make you aware of for the remainder of Term 2 and Term 3 and would encourage you/your child to attend if your child is in the year group indicated:

28 April	Y12 Geography Field Trip
22 May	Y12 Higher Education Evening & Student Finance 6.30pm
5 June	Y10 Exams Week
26 - 29 June	Y12 Biology Field Trip
3 July	Y9 Exams Week
	Y10 Work Experience Week
	Y12 Exams Week (non-examined subjects)
11 July	Y10 Geography Field Trip
17 - 21 July	Y12 Work Experience Week

I know that the Prom Committee, made up of a group of Y11 parents, is working hard to plan this year's Prom at The Heath. I am sure they would be delighted for further offers of support from Y11 parents. If you would like to offer your services, we can forward emails via the school office: office.meridian@rsat.org.uk

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you during this busy time of year as we aim to prepare your children to be valuable citizens in our local and global community.

Yours sincerely



Miss Kim Horner
Acting Head Teacher