

Introduction

I hope you and your families are doing well during the run up to the festive period. It is a time when everyone is gearing up to Christmas which for many is an exciting and fun-filled time of year but it is also a time when we are bombarded with adverts for expensive gifts and toys. For many of our families in Corby, Christmas is not necessarily a time of year that is something they look forward to because of the huge financial burden and pressure it places on them. As a community we recognise that this may be the case for some of our own families who are currently facing hardship. I would like to encourage you to reach out to your year team or me directly if you are in that position so that we can look at the best ways of supporting you, especially during this time of year. Nobody should have to face such hardship alone and we want to reach out and support our families wherever possible so do let us know if your circumstances have changed and/or you are finding things particularly difficult this time of year and we may be able to offer advice and support.

PPE's

The new term has started well, students in year 1 have been focused on their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) and the year 11 parent information evening was well attended last half term, helping many of our parents to know how they are better able to support their child during this pivotal year with helpful strategies such as 'Eat the Elephant'. If you could not make the information evening but would like someone to contact, you to talk you through the strategies you can use to support your child at home then please contact the year 11 team.

As for the rest of this term aside from the most important work of feeding back to year 11 and working on areas of improvement to prepare them for the next set of PPEs, year group assessments closer to the end of term, we are also looking forward to preparing for our festive preparations including the iconic and annual KSA staff panto, music on the mezz and a family style Christmas dinner where students will be sat in groups as part of their tutor and year groups and will sit down and help to serve one another and clear away, just as we do during family dinners in order to build a sense of community and belonging. The senior leadership team will also be on hand to help serve students and eat with them for Christmas dinner.

Attendance

On the subject of attendance. Many meetings have been taking place with families of students whose attendance is classed as PA or 'Persistently Absent'. This is a national threshold which is set at 90% and there is an expectation that no student becomes 'PA'. Where this has happened, meetings with Head of year and members of the senior leadership team including myself are taking place to address the schools' concerns and develop a plan to increase attendance. Likewise, students who are at risk of being 'PA' are also being invited in to meeting this term and next term, so students with attendance of between 90-94 % will have parents invited in to discuss their attendance levels. The aim is that every student should have attendance at least in line with the national average which is 95% so as a school community, we all need to work towards this. Understandably serious illness including Covid and Covid related absences cannot be avoided but these are the only exceptions.

School Clubs

We have kicked on with a full menu of break and after school clubs at KSA and we are encouraging as many students as possible to partake in the wide array of exciting clubs on offer. This is a chance to make friends, learn new skills and try something different. Please encourage your child to join a club as per below. As part of our enrichment offer, covid dependent, we are also committed to continuing to offer a wide range of trips for students and last half term was no exception as the year 11s and humanities team (and I was lucky enough be able to join them) visited the Staffordshire Military Museum and various war monuments in Cannock chase as part of their GCSE history preparation on 'Medicine Through Time'. The students and staff gained much from the experience, and this has no doubt helped to prepare them better for their examinations. The students were exceptionally well behaved and represented the Academy beautifully as we would all expect.

MASK WEARING

Students have also been excellent at adhering to the localised risk assessment of wearing masks during the transitions and when queuing at lunchtime etc. Please could I ask parents to be vigilant in ensuring that their child has at least one mask with them (ideally a spare) and reiterate the importance of wearing masks in those areas where there are high volumes of people in smaller spaces. Students are not required to wear masks in lessons, but many do feel they wish to do this which is supported.





MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Break 2	Break 2	Break 2	Break 2	Break 2
Colouring club AG H5	Student Voices AW E3	Football pundits DM & JP H7	DIY Club DO SC3	Psychology Club CA E3
Dance Club KG EP1	Drama SH EP1	Current affairs EC H2	Science club EH& HJ SC8	Yoga JB EP1
IT Club KD IV5	KS3 Maths puzzles LR Maths Resources Room	Fashion Design RBR A2		Board games BP M8
	Secret Reading club NM E4			EH MU1 Guitar club
SPORTS HALL Year 9 Basket ball PH/SM	SPORTS HALL KS3 7&8 Basket ball RN/SM	SPORTS HALL Year 9 Basket ball PH/SM	SPORTS HALL KS3 7 & 8 Basket ball RN/SM	SPORTS HALL Year 9 Basket ball SM/PH
LIB Chess, Animi, computer& board games After school	LIB Chess, Animi, computer& board games After school	LIB Chess, Animi, computer& board games After school	LIB Chess, Animi, computer& board games After school	LIB Chess, Animi, computer& board games After school
LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club	LIB Homework club
Dance club auditions & school production	Netball Club – All years RO/RLA Netball Courts/Gym	Science club HJ	Rugby – All Years SD Astro / Field	
Girls basketball Y7, 8, 9 SM/AC Sports Hall	Y10 Boys Basketball Fixtures SD/PH	Y7, 8, 9 Football RN/RO Astro / Field	KS4 Basketball PH Sports Hall	
KS4 Basketball Fixtures RN Dodgeball Y8 Fixtures SD Cross Country all years Fixtures		Cambridge National Catch-Up Session T2 AC	Y7/8 Girls Basketball Fixtures RO/AC Yr 7 Boys Football Fixtures RN	

