

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope you and your families had a great Easter break. I also hope that the Year 11 cohort and those preparing for exams in the Sixth Form, spent considerable time during the holidays undertaking the personal revision that is required for the forthcoming examinations, which start in mid-May (in 4 weeks time). I was in School during the first week of the break and it was pleasing to see a good turnout for the Year 11 Easter revisions. I am sure pupils will see the benefits of the additional support, closer to the exams. It is essential now that those involved in exams in May are putting in at least 3 additional hours at home each day and are also seeking out staff for advice and guidance they may need if they spot any gaps in their knowledge. For some it is an anxious time but with continued support from staff at School and from parents at home, the pupils should feel confident about their future success.



Well done

Congratulations to Alisdair Stout, Year 11 who two weeks ago, qualified to swim in the British Championships on April 22nd. This is the highest event for swimmers in this country to participate in. Some of our best Olympic swimmers like Adam Peaty and James Guy also swim at this event, so to hit qualifying times is a fantastic achievement on Alisdair's part and we certainly wish him well for the event.

#GoodLuckCarly

Carly Tait, wheelchair Paralympian, visited School during the final week before Easter to speak with some of our pupils and we were thrilled that she shared her inspirational story and also delivered a practical workshop with our pupils. Carly is an ex-pupil of Ashton (left in 2002) who will be competing in the World Para-Athletics Championships in London this summer. We wish Carly the very best for her future events and would ask any parents interested in her story to follow and support her on Twitter @CarlyT_WcRacer . Thanks to the PE team for organising the excellent session for our pupils.



NYC Easter Trip

For the first 6 days of the Easter break a team of staff and pupils flew off to NYC to undertake an educational trip around maths, Business and History. Miss Khoo and her team organised a fantastic itinerary including trips to Wall Street, Ellis Island, the Empire State building, the 9/11 museum, Central Park and they even managed to see the musical 'Wicked' on Broadway. Having led the last 2 School trips to NY in 2006 and 2008, I know the challenges of bringing a large school party to New York and want to thank the staff for giving up their Easter break to provide such a fantastic opportunity for our pupils. The feedback we have received from those that went has been excellent and I am sure both pupils and staff who were lucky enough to be involved will have made memories that will last them a lifetime.



Mobile Phones in School

We have had further issues with the use of mobile phones in School and I would like to remind parents and carers that any mobile phones that are seen being used in School will be taken from the child and placed in the School safe for the remainder of the week. Parents will then only be allowed to collect the phone on behalf of their child between 4 and 5 o'clock the following Friday. Too much time is wasted with us dealing with the use of mobile phones in School and it would be useful if you could reiterate this message to your child at home too. Thank you for your support in this matter.



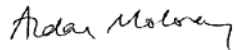
Additional Dates for your diary

Additional Dates

- 18th April – Year 8 & 9 Core Assessments all week
- 24th April – Year 13 School Photos
- 27th April – Sixth Form UCAS Parents' Evening 6.30pm, Sixth Form
- 28th – 30th April – Year 9 Practice D of E Expedition
- 1st May – Bank Holiday : School Closed

We do hope you find the weekly letter informative. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact reception and we will endeavour to deal with them promptly.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Moloney
Headteacher