

Dear Parents and Carers,

Open Morning

Last Saturday morning we had our annual Open Morning at school. Although we are over-subscribed in terms of admissions in each year group, Open Morning is a great opportunity for prospective parents to see the school in action and a very important event in the School calendar. The feedback we have received from the many visitors who attended on Saturday has been fantastic. They particularly spoke about how mature and welcoming the pupils they met were and how they promoted the school so well. The many pupils who helped us on the morning were certainly a credit to the school, so do please thank them on the school's behalf. The many pupils who supported us should certainly be congratulated in displaying their 'pride in school'.



Attendance and Punctuality

The first half term is going by very quickly and we now only have three full weeks until we break for half term. Could I please ask for your continued support in ensuring your child is in school every day possible and that they arrive to school punctually? Over the last couple of weeks our attendance has dipped slightly and we have a few pupils who are now persistently late. As I have explained before, there is a real correlation between examination and wider success at school and attendance/punctuality to school. Your support in this matter is much appreciated.

European Day of Languages

This year, we continued our tradition of celebrating the European Day of Languages on the 26th September by running deep-learning activities for our Year 7 pupils which encouraged them to use the language that they had learnt in the first few weeks of term. All the pupils spent time learning and performing a Spanish song before taking part in a football tournament in which they were only allowed to communicate in Spanish. Pupils were rewarded for making the most effort to communicate in the target language and they all thoroughly enjoyed the activities. What a great way to start the term in the MFL faculty!



Year 7 Teambuilding Day 2017

It was a great pleasure to help all the Year 7 pupils' access this year's Year 7 teambuilding day that was run by Challenge 4 Change, a local charity based organisation. The pupils had a great time, in the morning pupils in A-band spent their time at the Challenge 4 Change centre, on Trafford Park. Here they completed a set of high rope activities, designed to push pupils' ability but also to work in teams to complete the activities. M-band spent the morning at school completing a variety of problem solving exercises, again designed to get the pupils to work as a team. After an early lunch the pupils swapped places with M-band going to Challenge for Change and A-band completing activities on the field. It was a really great day watching all the pupils participating on the activities and it was good to see them gelling so well within their form groups.



Post 16 and Year 11 welcome evenings.

On Thursday this week at 6pm in Hall 1 for Year 11 and in the Sixth Form for Post 16, we are hosting 'Welcome Evenings' for parents. These events are fantastic opportunities for parents to find out how they can support their child throughout this important academic year. Staff will be making short presentations on a range of topics including revision strategies, coping with work demands in school and exam literacy. The sessions are usually really well attended and parents tell us they are excellent in providing information to help them support their child. Please do make every effort to attend because we know we will rely on your support with your children throughout the forthcoming academic year.

Please find attached a 'how to help your child develop excellent reading habits' guide for all parents to use.

A Year 10 Welcome Evening is planned for Thursday 12th October 6pm, Hall 1.

Photography Day

Please note that on Wednesday 4th October 2017 the school photographers will be in school. Pupils in Years 7, 9 and 11 will have individual portraits taken. As always parents will have the opportunity to purchase a selection of photographs. For siblings that attend the school, we are more than happy to take their photos together during break and lunch times. Approximately a week after Photo Day your son/daughter will be given a 'proof' photograph and instructions of how you can order online. Please note school cannot accept any monies, it has to go direct to Braiswick Photographic Co. Ltd.

The Manchester Actors Company

A reminder from the English Department that on Wednesday 11th October 2017 we are inviting the Manchester Actors Company into school to perform their brand new performance of 'Fighting For Words'. This is a unique poetry in performance presentation aimed to support pupils studying the AQA Power and Conflict poetry cluster as part of their GCSE in English Literature. The actors will vividly bring alive a collection of the poems in the cluster, giving a voice to the words, lifting them off the page. Following the one hour performance there will be a 30 minute Q&A session guided by the actors in the company, where pupils can ask questions they may have about individual poems, and the character(s) within the poems. For this opportunity we are asking each pupil for a £3 voluntary contribution to pay for the services, payable via Parent Pay.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

In the lead up to a Macmillan coffee morning which was organised by the pupils from the Food Tech department, a group of enthusiastic bakers stayed afterschool with Mrs Otway to bake some excellent brownies and cupcakes for the event. The sale was held on Friday and all money raised went towards this excellent charity.

Important dates



Additional Dates for your diary

- 4th October – School Photo day (Years 7, 9 and 11)
- 5th October – Year 11 Welcome Evening
- 5th October – Year 12 Welcome Evening
- 12th October – Year 10 Welcome Evening
- 19th October – Year 7 Welcome Evening
- 20th October – School Closes for half term break
- 30th October – School Opens 8.35am



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

Aidan Moloney

Mr A Moloney
Headteacher