

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This week marks the start of the GCSE and A-Level examinations. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our pupils embarking on important external exams, the very best of luck. It has been really pleasing to see the effort and application put in by our pupils and this bodes well for their summer performance. I am confident that they will continue to work as hard in the exam period and utilise the support that our teaching staff are providing them, in terms of extra revision and last minute preparation.

All our pupils across the School should now be undertaking revision at home in preparation for their own examinations. I cannot stress the importance of good revision habits and it is critical that these are developed from the start of Year 7, with all our pupils. Revision bingeing is no use to anyone and what we need is pupils revising for sustained periods of time, with them going back to their notes, condensing the knowledge required and learning information in preparation for assessments that they will face. Your support and encouragement during these weeks of preparation is essential to ensure that pupils do not feel anxious and are confident facing these examinations.

Advance Notice

Please note we are closing the school at 2.10pm on Friday 25th May for the start Whit break. Should any child need to remain in School until usual closing at 3pm, please inform us and we make suitable arrangements for them.

Booster Sessions

Mrs Webster has coordinated a series of booster opportunities for all pupils facing the GCSEs and this schedule was sent home to all parents and pupils last week. I have attached the schedule again to this letter to ensure that it is accessible for everyone. I hope you can take the opportunity to talk through your children's participation in the sessions with them during this week.

A visit to remember for Year 7!

On the 9th May a group of Year 7 pupils visited Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Training and Safety Centre. This centre is located in Bury, Greater Manchester, at the largest Fire-Fighter training facility in the UK. The day entitled 'The visit that could save your life' is designed to inform visitors about how to protect themselves against fire and other dangers. Pupils were introduced to the work of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and took part in a range of different interactive experiences. Pupils witnessed the impact of a car crash with a simulated collision, felt the power of fire in an immersive theatre, explored a full size fire house, spotting the risks and seeing the devastation of fire damage and discovered what it's really like in a 999 Control Room. An amazing experience and the pupils (and staff) learnt a lot.



GDPR returns

Could I please remind all parents that we are expecting the returns for the GDPR data information sheets back to school early this week. It is essential that they are returned to form tutors as quickly as possible so that we can update our systems in School. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Krakow & Auschwitz Trip 2019

There are still some places left on the trip to Krakow and Auschwitz in February 2019. The trip includes visits to the Galicia Museum, where pupils will have an opportunity to meet a Holocaust survivor, the Schindler Museum and a guided tour of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. They will also get to enjoy the city of Krakow, where they will enjoy historic and modern attractions, both educational and social. The trip is open to pupils who will be in Year 10 or 11 in September this year and has been a great success in previous years, described by many as 'the experience of a lifetime'. Letters are available from Mr Gallagher, Miss Ellis or Student Services, and parents are able to sign up via ParentPay.

MOSI STEM Awards

The Director of the Museum of Science and Industry brought in their Education team to consult with the STEM team on planning the museum's Education programme for the next 12 months. The Director also presented



Ashton on Mersey with the STEM Excellence Award for the second year running. There was plenty of praise and a host of new opportunities opened up for the coming year. Please encourage your child, who many have a STEM interest to join the STEM team.

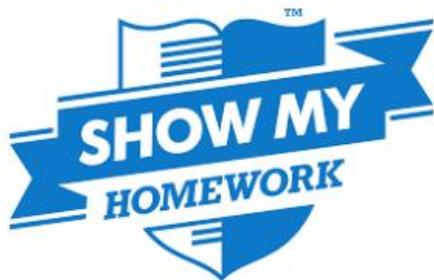


SCITT Coffee morning for Aspirant teachers

Did you know you could train to teach within The Dean Trust at our Teacher Training Centre based at Ashton on Mersey School?

Ashton on Mersey Teacher Training aims to develop the outstanding teachers of the future, those who will make a difference in the lives of the pupils they teach and to the colleagues with whom they work. We

are currently recruiting for our 2018/19 Primary and Secondary PGCE programmes. If you are interested in teaching and would like further information on Teacher Training or to speak to a member of the Ashton SCITT team, please contact Karen Craven, SCITT Administrator karencraven@thedeantrust.co.uk for more details. We have a coffee morning planned for Wednesday 23rd May 2018, 10am for prospective candidates; please call the Teaching School for further details.



Show my Homework

We launched Show My Homework with Year 7 pupils this term. All pupils received a PIN code and login details for their parent/guardian on a sticker in their planners. Please look out for these and download the Show My Homework App to your mobile devices using you parent PIN. We hope this initiative will enable you to follow your child's homework more closely and allow you to support their independent work at home.



Forthcoming Events

Additional Dates for your diary

- 14th May GCSE and A Level exams begin
- 25th May – School closes 2.10pm for Whit half term
- 4th June – School opens 8.30am for everyone

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