

# head'sherald

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well and that you had a good half term break. We have had a very busy but productive week so far. The Year 11 students have been doing an incredible job in their mock examinations and ensuring they are prepared and focussed to do their very best. Just a polite reminder that the Year 11 do start at 8.10am Monday-Thursday and it is so important that they attend on time, so that they make the most of all the expert teaching on offer. Staff are giving students this extra time because they believe in them and really want them to achieve their full potential.

Behaviour and standards continue to be a focus and it is so important that we have your support with this. The expectations are clear in all our literature and if a young person decides not to follow our rules, then there are consequences. We are understanding and empathetic to situations, however, behaviour and standards are key to enabling all our students to get the best education possible. There are non-negotiables and by wanting your child to come to Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School, these have to be adhered to. Of course, the vast majority of our young people do behave brilliantly on a day to day basis, but we always want to improve and model best practice.

Thank you for your patience with all the changes needed this week due to the Strike action. The students both in school and at home we a real credit to you and did what was asked of them – thank you. I appreciate there was disruption, but hopefully we were able to work with you on any problems that occurred. There are two more Strike days planned but I will keep you updated nearer the time.

## **Personal Development**

Next Week is National Careers Week please take a look at the following website –

<https://ncw2020.co.uk/activities/>

Where there are plenty of activities to explore their strengths, their subject likes, their personal qualities, post 16 options and future careers.

Students will be taking part in workshops, trips and activities both in form and during curriculum time over the term.

A group of Year 10 students are visiting Chester University next week where they will learn about studying Law at University and University life.

Some Year 10 students will also be going to the Parr Hall to a careers fair organised by Andy Carter.

### **Safeguarding Workshop**

This week, a number of our Year 7 students attended a safeguarding workshop with Mr Leonard and Mrs Chilton. We cannot speak highly enough of the students, as we worked through the very sensitive subject of online safety and grooming, and all adopted a very mature and focussed approach.

The students heard about the very sad, and true story, of Breck Bednar, a 14-year-old schoolboy from Surrey. Students were able to discuss the warning signs of grooming and what to do if they have any concerns whatsoever.

We encourage parents to talk to their children about their online activities, to familiarise themselves with the platforms that are being used and the safety guidance in order to report any concerns.

### **Charity Cake Sale**

On Friday 17/2, we held a cake sale to raise money for the people of Turkey and Syria. Students and staff were very generous, and we managed to raise a grand total of £162.40!! Thanks to everyone who donated cakes, time and money.

### **Attendance Raffle**

All students who achieve 100% attendance from the 27th February to the 31st March will be entered into a raffle. This means everyone has a chance of winning no matter what their current attendance is. Students will have the opportunity to win prizes, including Amazon Fire HD Tablets, a large selection of Easter eggs and other great prizes too. To be in with a chance of winning you must have 100% attendance during the 5 weeks leading to Easter.



### **New extra-curricular timetable**

Down in the Sport and Performance Department, we have a new extra-curricular timetable that starts next week! There are some new exciting clubs for students to try, and we are

continuing to run some of our existing popular clubs. All of these clubs will start next Monday 6th March.

During lunchtimes, we are continuing to run football in the Ball Hall and the tennis courts all days apart from Wednesday. This is for all students who wish to participate. On Wednesdays, we will again run Dodgeball for students in Year 7 and 8, and will also run a Girls Football club. This is for all year groups, and an opportunity to get some training in before the upcoming fixtures. Dance Club will also continue to run on a Monday and Thursday lunchtime.

Tuesday afterschool has changed completely. We now have Basketball Club for all year groups and all students who wish to take part in the fixtures on Wednesday nights must attend. This will be ran by Mr Burbidge. We also have created a new Futsal Fantasy club. Teams of 5 aside, which can be organised prior to the club or simply turn up and be put into a team, will compete against each other on a weekly basis and the winners will be presented with a prize at the end of this half-term!

Wednesday nights will consist of Netball fixtures (see Mrs Hughes) as well as Basketball fixtures (see Mr Burbidge/Mr Johnson). BTEC Sport Period 6 will be taking place also. The Boteler Sports Social will also be carrying on a Thursday afterschool for all students who wish to participate in a variety of sports for enjoyment rather than the competitive element. We also have the exciting addition of Trampolining club with Mrs Hughes. This club is for anyone; new starters or students who have been doing it for years at home! Rugby fixtures for various year groups will run throughout the half-term also (see Mr Johnson).

There is a club to suit the wishes of any student covering a wide range of sport and activities. Please, if any student has not attended an extra-curricular club so far this year, make sure that this half-term is the one that you make the wise choice and attend a club of your choice!

### **Year 11 Mock 2 Exams**

The first week of Year 11 Mock Exams started this week. The conduct of Year 11 has been excellent during the exams so far. They will continue next week finishing on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March with the English language exam in the morning with some students sitting a Further Maths exam in the afternoon. There will be no formal results assembly like the one we held in January. It is very important that students are given their exam papers back quickly by their teachers, so students know how they have performed, the grade they have achieved and what any gaps in learning are.

It is so important that students are working independently at home each evening and that students engage with all the revision material and resources that have been provided. A reminder that for students in Year 11, the national average is between 3-4 hours of revision each evening. Students' revision should be well under way by now especially given the proximity of the next set of Mock exams.

Additional revision sessions will be scheduled in school over the Easter holiday to support students in their exam preparation. Mr Koltan will send the timetable of these sessions out to parents and also provide students with the timetable via form tutors shortly.

### **Year 9 Options**

The deadline for the return of Year 9 Option Forms has now passed. Mr Koltan is now collating the Option choices with Miss Bound. Confirmation of the Option choices will be sent to parents/carers on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

### **KS3 WA2 Assessments**

A reminder that KS3 WA2 assessments will be held from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Students should be preparing for these assessments and bring all the required equipment (including scientific calculator) to school.

### **School Council Project**

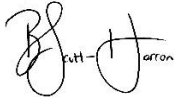
School Council will be running a donation project for children affected by the war in Ukraine over the next few weeks, they would like to contribute to a volunteer group travelling to Poland at the end of March to donate clothes/toys/books to an orphanage currently housing Ukrainian refugees. There are currently around 700 children within the orphanage, up to the age of 17, who have fled the war in Ukraine having lost their parents to the conflict. Donations such as clothes, toys or books are needed for all age ranges and School Council are keen to contribute.

If your child has any unwanted clothes/toys/books for children up to the age of 17, Mrs Jones will have boxes in her room to store any donations. Students who donate will receive raffle tickets for their items with a chance to win prizes.

Please make sure that you follow us on Social Media as this give you an instant insight into what is going on in school.

Many thanks as always for your ongoing support and have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverley Scott-Herron'.

Beverley Scott-Herron  
**Headteacher**