

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the Easter holidays now upon us, we wanted to reach out with a few messages and updates for the past term and coming term.

We say goodbye to two members of staff this half-term, my thanks to Mr Campion for his time teaching Science and a fond farewell to Mr Osh who left in Feb, pursuing his personal career ambitions. It is also worth noting that, Ms Begum will be starting maternity leave at the end of April. We have, however, appointed two new Science Teachers - Mr Salem and Mr Spencer who start post Easter. Mr Salem has been with us for most of the half-term to support the transition of Ms Begum; we know the students who supported the interview process are pleased with his permanent appointment!

We are also looking to welcome additional staff with Amy Mclelland joining the safeguarding and inclusion team. Davide Ponzio is also an exciting new addition to our learning mentor team. Ms Warr (Speech and Language Therapy Assistant) has said goodbye to our students so that she can complete her qualification training and we have welcomed Ms Fayyaz, who has taken over from her. Miss Boyle, one of our Occupational Therapists, will also begin working part-time after the Easter break.

Our Sensory Gym (physical swings, balance boards and rolling machines) and Sensory Spa (relaxing lighting, comfortable seating and sensory activities) have opened at break and lunch times for all students. The Therapy Team are available at these times to all students as part of our 'universal offer'. The offer of a lunchtime club to female students has also been well attended. Every student is now receiving a report for their Annual Review, describing how the therapies in Section F of their Education Health and Care Plan are being delivered. We have been delighted with the turnout and positive feedback for the parent workshops, hosted by Ms Bain (Social Worker) and Ms Uddin (Attendance & Family Liaison Officer).

Some great successes this term include the Arts, Literature and Careers Festival. Trips to the theatre and exam booster sessions delivered. Many students also had success in our functional skills and entry level qualifications – well done. Enrichment and vocational opportunities continue to grow, with our partnership with Oasis Trust and other local providers – hair and beauty will be making a comeback next term for Year 9, 10 and 11.

Next term brings the examination season, with plenty of exams to be completed and we welcome students showing the up most respect of these examinations and the expected conditions they impose. Disruption and risk of disruption will be managed with clear consequences, we must do all we can to support our Year 11 and 6th Formers. Students will be anxious, and we need to support them as a school community.

A reminder that the return date for students is Tuesday 16th April 2024 – inset day for staff on Monday 15th April all day.

Wishing you all a pleasant holiday break,

The Vanguard Team