

newsletter

May 2024



From the Headteacher

Welcome to our May Newsletter.

I hope you had a relaxing bank holiday weekend. My thoughts are with our Year 11 and 13 students who will be revising during parts of the half-term break. Our prayers are with them and their families.

Year 11

Our Year 11 students enjoyed their final formal day in school before exams on Wednesday 8 May. As usual, this was a lovely celebration, and it was great that students could dress up. They will gather again for their formal 'Prom', to celebrate their exams being over and to be together for the final time as a year group.

Year 13

The Year 13 students all enjoyed their wonderful Prom. My thanks go to all the staff who worked to make it a success. We wish all the students well in their exams and will support all our students into whatever pathway is the best one for them.

Exams

Exams have got off to a well-ordered start. It is good to see the students arriving on time and with the correct equipment. We are running revision sessions and have a study room for those Year 11s who wish to have extra support. They have been notified of the details. Thank you to parents/carers for your support and encouragement of your young people, at what we know can be a stressful time.

Year 7 to Year 8 Transition

We are already approaching the point where Year 7 will be transitioning to Year 8 and will be leaving their Tutor bases in the Ikoba building. As Year 7 parents/carers have already been informed, Mr Freeman will remain as the group's Head of Year, and Mr Halpin will be taking on the role of Deputy Head of Year while Ms Amos is on maternity leave. This arrangement starts from the beginning of Term 6. I know Mr Halpin is looking forward to getting to know the year group, some of whom he may already have taught in his role as a Science teacher here.

Calendar for 2024-2025

We have sent all parents/carers information about the start of year arrangements for September 2024, and all the INSET day dates, so that you can plan accordingly. As you will have seen, we are having one staff INSET day on 2 September, and school will be closed to all students. Year 7 and Year 12 will attend from 3 September, to support their induction into a new environment, and all other year groups from 4 September. The INSET dates are on our website.

Community News

We will be welcoming Mrs Bayley (Science) back from her maternity leave after the holiday. Ms Lam, who has been covering her teaching, will remain in post until the end of the academic year, to ensure continuity.

Mr Morgan, our new Deputy Headteacher (Behaviour, Inclusion and Ethos), will be taking on his new role full time from next term, and Mrs Duzniak will be returning to her role as Assistant Headteacher (Community Engagement, Personal Development, and Faith). We would like to express our thanks for all her dedication to her temporary role. Mr Morgan has been in school one day each week during the last term to get to know how our school 'works'. He is enjoying getting to know everyone and will introduce himself to parents and carers in due course.

We say goodbye and thank you to Mr Woodville, our temporary Senior Assistant Headteacher, who moves on to a new permanent Headship role. He has made a considerable contribution to some strategic projects, as well as being a positive presence around the school site. We wish him well.

Individual Achievements

Congratulations to Stephene (Year 8) who competed at the South West Regional swimming competition in April. Stephene qualified for 11 races, achieved lots of finals and claimed the gold medal for the 400 Individual Medley. The 400 Individual Medley is one of the toughest swimming events on the schedule. It requires versatility, incredible stamina, and careful race strategy to do well. We are delighted for Stephene and proud of her achievements.



Del Planter, Headteacher