



Year 7 Office: 01553 779408

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## April – May 2021

Message from Mr Johnson

Many thanks to all the students this term - they have all really worked their socks off! Next term we hope for even further reductions in COVID measures on our road back to normality. Our next half term will have a strong focus on standards. We will be conducting a full uniform check in the first week back and monitoring this regularly. May I politely remind students that they should wear a blazer at all times, including when they are in PE kit for the day and also ensure they don't wear their coat whilst in lessons. Similarly, we will continue to stress the importance of punctuality, both at the start of the day and between lessons.

I hope you have a relaxing half term holiday,

Best wishes

Mr A Johnson

## A Long Half Term

This has been a long half term and seems even longer than normal, as we have simply not been used to being here! A great deal has happened and there are several things to report. Starting on a serious issue, we have had to cope with several changes to routines and procedures because of Covid. Most noticeably, there have been changes to uniform rules and pupils have been allowed to wear coats when classrooms have been cold. Pupils have been wearing PE kit to school at times and, sadly, this can lead to a rather scruffy look! Year 7 are very good at wearing the right uniform and we are going to monitor this very closely after half term. **Please double check uniform as pupils failing to wear the correct items will be isolated until it is corrected.**

## Assessments

Firstly, Year 7 have now completed their first set of formal assessments in the school. Every subject has set an assessment that tests learning from the start of September. The results will be published as part of the next report that you receive and my message to all is that the assessments will help us to focus on strengths and weaknesses moving forward. What was clear, however, is just how seriously and sensibly the pupils approached the assessments and how hard they all tried during them. Staff have praised their attitude and sense of purpose.

## Council Elections

Year 7 now have a Year Council. The pupils went through an election process and each form group have chosen a representative. The Council have already come up with some good ideas for improving provision for Year 7 at lunchtimes and suggestions have been passed on to Mr Johnson.

### **Extra-Curricular**

Clubs and activities have started now and we have athletics, cricket, rounders and fitness in addition to Drama and Music clubs taking place each week. I know that some pupils have also joined the Art Club and the Stem Club and have taken part in after school Maths and English sessions. The pupils should be encouraged to keep turning up and joining in.

The Year 7 Choir are making great progress and I look forward to seeing them perform live soon!

### **What are we looking forward to?**

Spelling Bee Competition – Every student has been given the lists of words to have a look at over the half-term holidays on Google Classroom. The first round will be in Tutor time on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June** where students will be given a random selection of 15 words from the lists. The top 3 students from each Tutor group will go through to the second round to be held in the Drama Studio. The top 3 students from the Year will then represent the school in a Trust Competition.

Reports to parents should be available on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June**. This will be a chance to get some feedback on both academic progress and your son/daughter's attitude to **learning**.

The most important date for next half term will be **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June** as this will be our next Parents' Evening. This will again be on-line, but we will try to help all of the parents who have difficulty accessing the system, by making some of the computer systems available here.

### **Summer Fun!**

As the weather gradually improves, we hope to have a few activities on the field during lunch-time to keep all of the pupils in Year 7 entertained. This will include a knockout competition that will begin straight after half term.

We also hope to offer one or two events early in the summer holiday including an **Arts and Sports Day** to help offer some of the practical experiences that have been sadly missing so far this year. Details will be confirmed early next half term and pupils will be able to sign up to events that they are interested in.

### **Rewards!!**

We have continued to celebrate the hard work going on in Year 7 with badges to honour the achievement points being awarded. So far, 172 have received Bronze badges for receiving 100 achievement points and we have nine pupils who have already received a silver badge because they have topped 250 achievement points.

Pupils have been working towards "A Hero", a challenge that includes attendance, behaviour and general school life. We will be staging a celebration day in July for all who complete it.

### **Special mention!**

A special award for a special pupil. Shannen Higby was invited to speak to Mr Johnson as she had taken the initiative to raise environmental issues with her tutor group and volunteered to give presentations. Mr Johnson has awarded her a "Role Model" badge – quite an honour and very rare for a pupil in Year 7. Well done!

# Year 7 photo gallery

