



Year 8 Office: 01553 779408

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May 2022

Message from Mr Johnson

Dear Parent/Carer

It's amazing how quickly the weeks fly by sometimes and I find it difficult to believe we are already at the end of what has been another very busy half term. Firstly, I would like to thank students for their efforts on keeping the site clean and tidy. There is always more we can do, but they are taking much greater pride in our environment.

Alongside the usual busyness of school life, this half term has seen Mr Cuss and Miss Ashfield visiting all of our new pupils who will be joining us in Year 7 in September. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been completing assessments. Year 9 have also been choosing which subjects they would like to study over the next two years. And students in Years 11 and 13 started their GCSE and A Level public examinations.

Next half term will see Year 11 and Year 13 students completing their exams and then hopefully enjoying a well-earned rest in the sunshine. It will then be the turn of Year 10 and 12 students to complete their assessments before we all finish for the Summer holidays.

We will have our final Super Learning Day of the year in July where Year 7 students will have the opportunity to create some amazing smoothies. Year 8 will be working on their CREST award for their work in science. Year 9 and 10 students will be learning about how to look after themselves and others. And Year 12 will officially begin planning for their next stage after sixth form.

Rewards Day for our students is Wednesday 20th July and the last day of this school year is Thursday 21st July. Please note that we finish slightly earlier on this day and students will be leaving at 2.20 pm rather than 3.25 pm.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your ongoing support. I hope you and your family enjoy the week off, possibly involving some Jubilee celebrations.

Best wishes

Mr A Johnson

Let's start with a few positive comments from some of our students:

"The highlight of the last few weeks has been that I got a gold badge for achievement points"

"I got better in German!"

"The highlight of the last few weeks has been receiving a postcard from school.....I have also been getting better at piano"

"The highlight of the last few weeks has been better because I've been getting in less trouble"

"The highlight of the last few weeks going on the Bushcraft camping trip and enjoying new experiences"



A theme emerges when I ask the students how they feel they are progressing. They point to gradually gaining more confidence in their subject areas and also joining in more with clubs, activities and outings both in and out of school. As we move towards the end of the academic year, it is clear that the students are growing up and taking on the challenges of school life head on.

Space Trip



We ended last half term with our first major outing as a year group. We went to the National Space Centre in Leicester and all of our students had the chance to look at all of the exhibits on the several floors. The highlight was a massive screen with surround sound showing us the whole universe from the point of view of a space craft travelling through space.

Assessments

As you are aware, this half term has ended with all of our students sitting their second round of assessments. What is becoming clear, is that they are better prepared this time and have taken the assessments quite seriously. Several tell me that they can see the benefit of using the Knowledge Organisers and that they have been doing some revision sessions when at home.

“I feel prepared because we revise in lessons and set things to revise at home.”

“I feel that I have prepared for most of the assessments that I have done. I would revise a day before and write a revision sheet to revise from it before the assessment.”

Behaviour in the assessments has been very good and students have arrived fully equipped and well organised. This is one of the advantages of doing regular series of assessments - it is good preparation for future exams.

Information Evening

It was a pleasure to meet many of the parents of Year 8 for the first time when we held our Information Evening on May 11th. During the evening, we tried to outline some of the key areas that we have been working on and it was a chance to address one or two questions that have come our way. We stressed the importance of taking every opportunity that comes along – including getting involved in clubs and activities. The message is getting through, as we now have over 80% of our year group actively involved in a club either in or out of school. Other topics that we touched upon were the need for good attendance and good behaviour. Most of the students are pushing themselves to come to school regularly and can see the importance of attending school even when feeling a little under the weather. We have missed more than enough time fighting Covid – so we must now cram in all of the things that we have not been able to do properly for months.

“I enjoy rounders”

“I have really enjoyed the Choir this term.....and the trip to Norwich was a great experience singing with a live band”

“I enjoy Pride Club and Debate Club.....we talk about lots of subjects”

“I enjoyed the extra-curricular activities I do eg Fashion and History Club. They are very inclusive and fun.....”

“I really enjoy going to rehearsals for The Ash Girl play because it’s full of lovely people all working together and it all comes to life.....”

Springfest update

So far, prize draw ticket sales following the Information Evening have helped us to a further £50 towards Springfest and the students have now raised £918. This is a big effort and we have managed to secure quite a few events for the Rewards Day celebration.

Tickets are available on Parent Pay for £1.00 a go. Prizes include £50.00 shopping vouchers and Afternoon Tea at Knights Hill.

Most of the year group have now completed their Endeavour Challenge and will therefore be able to come to the Springfest celebration. Those who are still finishing it off will be given a week or so after half term to complete the challenge.

Cup Winners

The Year 8 Football team deserve a special mention. They came back with the Cup and celebrated in style.

Kenzie “On the 25th May, Year 8 football boys went to a County Cup Plate Final. The score was 3-2 to us and the goal scorers were Fran, Tony and Josh. On the way there we all felt a bit nervous. When we were waiting for the kick off to happen we were all scared but we got more confident during the game. It felt good winning!!



Dates for the Diary

Year 8 reports will be published on 28th June

The Parents Evening will be held on 30th June

French Trip – 1st July – 4th July

Super Learning Day 5th July

Sports day 6th & 7th July

Springfest 20th July

End of term 21st July at 2.25pm