

17th May 2024

Dear Families

This week has been very busy with a whole week of Raising Standards meetings. I have met with Middle Leaders to discuss the progress of children in each year group and in each subject. This provides me with a really detailed picture of current progress and attainment that goes way beyond data. They are essential meetings as part of our monitoring and evaluation processes. Exams have also gone very well this week. We have continued to see many smiles and chatting about questions as students leave the examination halls. Year 13 enjoyed their leavers' BBQ on Wednesday lunchtime and thank goodness that the weather was kind! Their study leave begins officially today. We were a little disappointed by the attendance at the Year 11 targeted revision day on Tuesday. This was a perfect opportunity for key students to hone their knowledge and skills right before the examinations and staff had worked hard to prepare resources and sessions for them. We will continue to do everything we can to support students to be as successful as possible and I know that parents will continue to support this. We plan on providing similar targeted opportunities for Year 9 and 10 as we recognise that students need this much earlier. We have appointed a member of staff to lead our strategic approach to developing a study culture and to target underachievement. Year 9 have also enjoyed their Days of Reflection which are important opportunities to develop their own faith.

It was lovely to celebrate the success of Year 9 boys who play for Dunstable Town FC and won the Bedfordshire FA County Cup final last weekend.

Our Student Council have been showing their gratitude to staff this week with visits to our Science Technicians, our Library team and our IT team. All the staff were very moved by this demonstration of appreciation.

Last week we had a swarm of bees! Our local beekeepers, John and Colin, came in and helped our Year 10 beekeepers to sweep them into a box with a dustpan and brush. Colin told us that although we may have slightly less honey this year, we now have two hives and the future is looking very promising!

Next week our transition visits for our new Year 7 cohort begin in earnest now that the LS2 SATs are out of the way. We are very much looking forward to meeting our new students. On Tuesday and Thursday next week, Year 10 Geographers are conducting their fieldwork. On Wednesday Year 10 Horticulture students will be pond dipping. On Thursday Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students are off on their practice expedition.

Please be aware that the parent forum planned for Tuesday has been cancelled as there were only a few people signed up. We will look at how we approach these for next year.

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This week our community support resource is the Citizens Advice Bureau information on how to get support with school costs. You may not be aware but if you're on a low income, you might be able to get help with some of the costs of sending your child to school, including school meals, transport and uniform. We encourage all who are eligible to make sure they apply to get the help to which they are entitled. This is particularly important for those entitled to free school meals as not only does it support the child and their family but it increases funding for the school so we are more able to give extra support, interventions and resources. Find out more on the school support section of the Citizens Advice bureau website [here](#).

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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