

"Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play sport." *Pope Francis - His Life in His Own Words 2013*

Friday 04 February 2022

Dear parent(s)/carer(s) and students

I have always headed my newsletters with a piece of scripture, but this week have taken the opportunity to share with you the words of Pope Francis from his book "His Life in His Own Words" (2013).

In what has been a very busy half term for every one of us; staff, students, parents and carers alike, that is often doubly difficult because of the January blues, it felt timely to remind each other of His Holiness' words and reminder that we must balance our work and busy stressful lives with rest, family time, leisure activities and fun. This weekend I do hope that you all find some time for this.

Arbor

Last week we launched the Arbor parent portal and over 585 parents/carers have already logged in. If you haven't yet, please do find time to log in as soon as possible for the most up today information about your child in school. A number of parents have already found the portal of great use especially in being able to update contact records and we are extremely grateful to you for taking the time to do this.

On Wednesday I also sent out login information to all students via their school email so please do encourage them to login too.

A reminder that ClassCharts will be out of use straight after half term.

Mental Health Week

Next week is **Place 2 Be's Children's Mental Health Week** with this years theme being Growing Together. We will be encouraging students, and staff, to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow. Parent(s) and carer(s) can find usual tips, ideas and guidance at https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/.

On Friday next week staff will engage in the "Dress to Express" initiative to raise funds for Place 2 Be.

Non-uniform Day

Lent is not very far away and is always a key part of our liturgical year for fundraising. To jump start the fundraising we will hold a non-uniform day on Friday 18th February 2022. This year the money donated will go to the Mizen Foundation, a charity that supports young people to be change-makers and peacemakers in their schools and local communities. During March we will be joined in school by Barry and Margaret Mizen to share with us their story and inspire our students to be positive influencers of peace and change.

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Punctuality to School

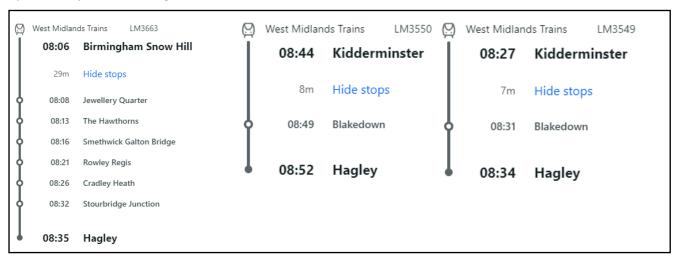
Since the very start of the pandemic we have been minded to permit a degree of grace around punctuality to school so that students could catch less busy trains. However with the second half of the year approaching and a greater sense of normality needing to be achieved and worked towards we will be removing this grace.

From Monday 28th February 2022 (straight after half term) all students are expected to be on site by 08:55am.

This means for students who catch the train to school they must ensure they have caught the 08:06 from Snow Hill via Rowley Regis, Cradley Heath and Stourbridge that arrives to school by 08.:35. Or if travelling from the south caught the 08:27 or 08:44 from Kidderminster in order to be in school on time.

Students who are not on site by 08:55 and therefore not punctual to their Year group line up, or school for Key Stage 5, will face same day detentions after school.

As ever we do not want to have to put sanctions in place but must return to the positive habits of good punctuality and discourage tardiness.



Year 11 and 13 Study Leave

Year 11 and 13 have only 11 school weeks until their first formal exams. While this time seems short it is still 55 working days, 3 weeks of time away from school at half term and Easter, and therefore more than enough time to make a significant difference to their outcomes through hard work and revision during this time.

Year 11 are expected to attend school as normal until Friday 27th May 2022 after which they are only expected to attend for exams or specific revision classes.

Year 13 are expected to remain in school for all lessons until Friday 13th May after which they can agree arrangements with their specific teachers for additional timetabled revision sessions.

Governor Recruitment

Further to a previous letter sent out by the Chair of the Local Governing Board I wanted to reiterate our desire to recruit a new parent governor as well as also having a vacancy for a foundation governor too. Having done this role myself I know only too well what a valuable and rewarding experience it can be to contribute to the challenge and accountability structures of leadership in a school. The role involves a commitment to six meetings a year, one each half term, and can also include support with recruitment, admissions and being linked to an area of school life to monitor. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me about the role, which I would urge you to do, or to see the letter from the Chair of the LGB at this link Letter - Parent Governor Invitation.

Finally, a reminder that next Wednesday the school vaccination team are in school to administer COVID 19 vaccinations again. Please be sure to have submitted consent online by Sunday evening at the latest via the link previously sent out in a letter from the NHS or at this link.

Wishing you all a very good weekend.

With every good wish, prayer and blessing

Yours sincerely

Aladga.

Mr J Hodgson *Principal*

Key dates:

Wednesday 9th February 2022 COVID vaccinations in school

Thursday 10th February 2022 Year 7 Online Parents Evening (4.30 - 7.15pm)
Thursday 17th February 2022 Emmaus Pyramid Concert, Birmingham Town Hall

Friday 18th February 2022 Break up for half term