



20 May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

HPV and dual booster vaccinations, Examination attendance, Jubilee plans incorporating Year 11 leavers' event – Friday 27 May, Year 13 leavers' assembly, Debate Club success, Uniform and hair styles

Welcome to my end of week update letter. With a week until half term and with an examination series well underway (which feels odd after Covid), we are in the midst of trying times as our senior students are put through their paces at the end of their courses. Also, with the Jubilee celebrations fast approaching, we are about to publish our plans for celebration of this historic occasion at the Academy.

More below:

HPV and dual booster vaccinations

On Monday we welcome the School Age Immunisation service in again for these Year 8 and 9 routine vaccinations. We have a large list of students to vaccinate this time but hope to have them completed in one school day. If this proves not to be possible, the team are booked provisionally to mop up any last vaccinations next Wednesday.

Examination attendance

As we are now a good week or so into the examination series we are seeing some students fail to attend for some papers. While it appears that the overwhelming majority are illness related and are unavoidable, a small number of parents have communicated with us that they have decided to keep their children at home to "have a rest and save themselves for exams that do count."

Where students are unavoidably absent due to illness we remain steadfastly supportive and ask you to be good enough to supply a GP letter for us to send to the examination board to support you. Where parents do not supply this evidence or are just keeping their children at home, we may take the decision to charge for the cost of the examination entry.

Jubilee plans incorporating Year 11 leavers' event – Friday 27 May

Next Friday we intend to celebrate the Jubilee by taking all students off timetable for the afternoon for some fun activities on the field, weather dependent. As part of this we are also planning a leavers' event for all Year 11 students. We will communicate the finer details early next week.

Year 13 leavers' assembly

Our Year 13 cohort also have their leavers' assembly and celebrations next Friday. They will be in lessons as normal in the morning but will have their assembly period 3, followed by celebrations and goodbyes in the afternoon. They have been an amazing group of young people and epitomise everything we aspire for our students to be. They will continue to access revision sessions they have opted into over the coming weeks leading up to their final examinations.

Debate Club success

Towards the end of June, our sixth form debate team will be heading to Oundle School to take part in a parliamentary style debate against a vast array of different schools from across the East Midlands and beyond. We are the only non-grammar or non-fee paying school invited to take part in this event which is testament to Miss Bennett and the humanities faculty for their wonderful commitment to this at SRPA. This is a fantastic opportunity for our Year 12 students to enhance their critical thinking skills and expand their knowledge of a range of topical issues. Previous topics have included if we should have 50% female representation in Parliament, if controversial historical statues should remain and the ethics behind genetic modification. I will keep you informed of their progress.

Uniform and hair styles

If you intend to take your child for a haircut and are not clear of our academy expectations, please be good enough to have a look at our uniform policy prior to doing so which covers all aspects of hairstyle. We are seeing some significant deviation from what is expected so this would save us calling you to discuss it. Thank you.

I leave you this week with a great quote from the author A.J. Juliani who writes about learning and empowerment: "Our job is not to prepare students for something. Our job is to help students prepare themselves for anything."

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



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