



31 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Options Confirmation, Year 11 Rewards Breakfast, Armed Forces Covenant Bid, Inappropriate Content Online Advice for Parents, Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – 12 Week Plan

Welcome to my final update letter of the spring term. It has been a very long but fruitful term and I hope that you also have the chance to read our accompanying termly newsletter which highlights our recent endeavours.

Year 9 Options Confirmation

Mr Ward has confirmed all options choices and is sending home hard copy letters with every student today.

Year 11 Rewards Breakfast

99 of our finest youngsters enjoyed a rewards breakfast this week. A lovely time was had by all and a mountain of food was devoured! Well done Year 11, fully deserved.

Armed Forces Covenant Bid

I am delighted to announce that we have been successful in bidding for a sizeable amount of money to employ a dedicated tutor for our service children. This will hopefully begin on 1 June 2023 for a calendar year and will be a full-time position. The vacancy is now on our website and in all of the usual educational publications. We are proud of our close association with the armed services and could not be more proud that this success has come our way. This dedicated role will allow for a more bespoke service in this regard which is excellent news for all concerned.

Inappropriate Content Online Advice for Parents

Over the last few months, we have seen an increase in reporting that students, while at home, have accessed content which is not always appropriate, some of which has been quite scary or upsetting. We have also had a report of worrying trends on TikTok encouraging nudity from its users. This can have legal implications for our children and young people that they often aren't aware of.

While there is no perfect way to eliminate this risk, we feel that there are things parents and carers can do to support their children online, reduce the risk or manage it after the fact. Remember to keep lines of communication open with your children and young people.

Just like we ask them how their day was at school and what they got up to it is equally important to have this conversation about their online lives. If you can keep technology out of the bedrooms and private spaces this is also an effective tool in safeguarding our children.

Here are some more practical steps parents and carers can follow:

Contact their Internet Service Provider (ISP): Companies that provide broadband such as BT, Sky and Virgin, offer free protection for parents and carers. They can filter your internet connection directly, without having to install anything. Guide on how to use this can be found here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>

YouTube is a fantastic resource, but not all the content is appropriate for children and not all YouTube channels are made for young audiences. YouTube has an app just for children – YouTube Kids – but many people don't realise that the main YouTube app has a restricted mode. Check out more about how it works here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

Parental Controls for Devices - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>

Games consoles have features that can limit what games they can play based on the age ratings and can even turn off certain features to allow gaming to be a little safer. To learn more about these features visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>

Games are also rated based on the content; not how difficult they are. 18 rated games can have very graphic violence, adult language and themes, sexual content, and horror elements. Learn a bit more about appropriate games by visiting <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/> or visit this site for more about game ratings <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegi-games-ratings-explained>

Social Media privacy guide - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/>

Have you heard about Tik Tok Family Pairing <https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/tiktok-introduces-family-pairing> - Family pairing allows adults to link their accounts to their teenagers account so you can customise their safety settings such as content, privacy and wellbeing settings.

It's important to remember that no filters or controls are 100% effective so make sure your child knows that they can, and should, talk to someone if they see or hear anything upsetting online so we can offer them some reassurance. This information from Thinkuknow might be useful - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/im-worried-my-primary-aged-child-might-see-something-inappropriate-online/>

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – 12 Week Plan

Please find attached our plans for the whole summer term of jubilee celebrations. We are delighted to be celebrating 70 active years as a school and want to include all of our students in the activities we have planned.



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We have teamed up with the YMCA and other agencies to run local heritage trips and castle walks, as well as House competitions and many other chances to have some fun. In June, we will host Nigel Huddleston MP, the current MP for Mid-Worcestershire and Minister of State for International Trade since February 2023. Nigel is an alumnus of the school and will spend some time with our sixth form, our debate team and our wider student body to discuss his time at SRPA. We have one top secret event later in the term which I haven't quite had confirmed yet but, if I manage to get it to go ahead, it's an absolute belter....watch this space!

In addition, we also held a competition recently for students to design a Jubilee House shield to feature on our new Platinum Jubilee Celebration plaque to be erected in the Great Hall during the summer term. I am delighted to announce the winners whose names will also appear on the plaque for posterity:

Lancaster – Robert W (Year 8)

Stuart – Tyler V-B (Year 10)

Tudor – Charlotte M (Year 11)

Windsor – Summer H (Year 10)

York – McKenzie G-C (Year 10)

Well done to all five of you! I will publish the new design when it comes back completed from the sign makers and, will reward our five winners on our return from Easter.

Easter is the perfect time to rest, enjoy time with friends and family and to enjoy a few sweet treats. We are fully prepared for the summer term, a fairly imminent examination season, a set of fun jubilee activities and, hopefully, some better weather. In the words of German author and poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, "It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart". I wish all of you a relaxing break and hope to see all of our students back at the Academy on Tuesday 18 April 2023, as the Monday is a staff INSET Day.

Happy Easter!

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Headmaster



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