



28 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, HPV Vaccinations, Year 11 Revision Skills Evening, Schools' Alumni Week, Year 7 Parents' Evening, Examinations**

Welcome to my end of week update letter. We have experienced a really jam-packed week of events, competitions and visits in order to ensure we achieved them all prior to the first bank holiday weekend.

### **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

This week has seen our talented artists submit entries for our Jubilee Art competition. Next week, is our 'School over the Decades' week. Teachers and departments have been given a decade since the school has been open in the 1950s. Students will be able to see staff dressed in the clothing of their decade and lessons will have a nod to this theme all week with Tuesday being the main day for staff dressing up to show our youngsters how it all used to be. If I tell you I am off to see Duran Duran tomorrow evening, you can easily guess my decade, but I will be pitching in with some tunes from that time too. It is always an addition to a young person's life experience to hear A Flock of Seagulls, The Human League and Heaven 17....

### **HPV Vaccinations**

The Year 8 vaccinations will be held next Wednesday in the main hall for Year 8 students when the School Age Immunisation Service will be on hand to administer them.

### **Year 11 Revision Skills Evening**

This was a very successful event held this week and represented our last opportunity to support parents in how they can help with revision at home.

### **Schools' Alumni Week**

We have had the real pleasure of welcoming back some of our alumni over these past few days to work with our youngsters by talking to them about their fields of expertise. From a professor at the University of Leeds to a motor sport industry specialist, we have seen a range of varied and really valuable experiences for our student body.

From our new partnership with Future First Hub, we have seen over fifty alumni reach out to support us, which bodes well for the future and is testament to the networks the Academy can now call upon. If you are, or know of any former students who have left over the years and may be interested, please share the following link with them <https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk/register/sir-robert-pattinson-academy>.

## Year 7 Parents' Evening

This is due to take place in person next Thursday. The booking system is still open for appointments to be made. However, please be mindful when doing so that this is our largest year group, which we over-offered to last summer. Consequently, appointment slots are at a premium. If you are yet to try and book in to see your child's teachers, please do so at your earliest convenience.

## Examinations

We are now well underway with the first set of formal examinations for Years 11 and 13. From this point on, every second counts. We wish all of our students good fortune with their examinations this summer.

Our Platinum Jubilee is allowing us all to explore the history of the school and Academy prior to my tenure. Recently, I shared the old punishment books from the 60s, 70s and 80s with Dr Kissane for his cultural capital work that will be delivered in June. It has been well over thirty years since corporal punishment was ruled unlawful but, from my research around SRPA, it didn't prove to be much of a deterrent anyway. Some of the wild antics that youngsters got up to are rightfully preserved in these historical documents and show a far more challenging environment than what we experience today. However, my personal favourite was from 1968 when two young men, in what we now call Year 8, both received several strokes of the cane for "interfering with a frog in the pond." So many questions abound from that one....

In this world of self-improvement where everyone is set targets to achieve, I do sometimes look back fondly on 'the old days' when life appears to have been a little simpler. However, I am also reminded of the words of Martin Luther King who said that "You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

Enjoy your slightly longer weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.



"This is a calm, happy and caring school."



Yours faithfully



**Mr D Hardy**  
**Headmaster**



“This is a calm, happy and caring school.”

