



6 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Flu Vaccinations – 9 October 2023, PD Day 10 October 2023, Tutor Evenings – Years 7, 10 and 12, Homework Timetables, Year 7 and Year 10 SEND Reviews, Feedback on Bulletins, Updating Contact Details, MacMillan Coffee Morning Funds Raised, Year 7 Staying Safe Day, Combined Learning Centre

Welcome to my weekly update letter. You can always see that term is well underway when we are into Staying Safe Days and PD Day is upon us. Tutor evenings are also just around the corner so please visit us for a catch up as to how your child is doing in Years 7, 10 and 12.

More below:

Flu vaccinations – 9 October 2023

These will be held on site next Monday when we will receive a visit from the School Age Immunisation Service. This is for Years 7–11 whose parents/careers have given consent.

PD Day - 10 October 2023

On Tuesday 10 October, we are excited to share it is our first Personal Development Day. For our Year 7 parents, there are six of these each year, where all regular timetabled lessons are dropped down. We explore a variety of areas that support our students in wider learning, supporting their own development inside and outside of the classroom. We have a broad range of activities that allow us to focus on key themes and topics.

This term, the day falls on World Mental Health Day, and in our personal development curriculum, all lessons have a focus on health and wellbeing, with a large part of the day dedicated to this with various foci, such as, positive mental health and keeping safe. We have arranged some enrichment time too, reinforcing to students that a healthy work-life balance is crucial in having a happy life. We will have a variety of sessions for students to try, including art for relaxation, various forms of physical exercise, understanding skin care, tabletop games, debating and Duke of Edinburgh skills and camping taster sessions.

All year groups will have sessions on Learning 2 Learn (L2L), our in-house programme to support students to appreciate what good habits and characteristics an expert learner has and understand themselves as a learner, reflecting on how to improve their behaviours for learning. We will be exploring British Values with our students and why these are so important to us, along with sessions celebrating the European Day of Languages, developing their passion for languages further. There will also be sessions exploring careers, with a different focus for the respective years, dependent on their key stage, with KS4 students looking at the options they have for their next steps, including our very own RP6th.

Our Key Stage 5 students will be involved in a variety of activities too. Year 13 are going to Nottingham University to explore their next steps, whilst Year 12 will remain on site and will be working on their 'independent living skills', with some domestic and culinary skills activities, along with some financial awareness sessions.

We look forward to hearing your feedback and hope all of our students have a great day!

Tutor evenings – Years 7, 10 and 12

We begin the first of two weeks of these evenings next Wednesday, 11 October 2023. This is a chance for you to see your child's tutor to discuss how they are settling into the new year. You should have already received joining instructions but, if not, please contact Mr Kirk via email at gkirk@srpa.co.uk.

Homework Timetables

We have taken our time this year to ensure we are happy with these, especially as Year 7 have just completed their CAT tests. Years 7, 8 and 9 are now published. The higher years will follow but are less urgent given that the examination syllabi cover their content and home learning.

Year 7 and Year 10 SEND Reviews

Mr Adlington and his team have already invited affected parents. However, should you wish for a review and haven't booked a time slot, please contact the SEND team using SEND@srpa.co.uk.

Feedback on Bulletins

We are seeking parent and student feedback with regard to our bulletins pertaining to Careers and Work-Related Learning as well as Healthy and Wellbeing. We are considering a change to this provision but remain unclear as to how much families read and utilise these publications. Any feedback is gratefully received via enquiries@srpa.co.uk.

Updating Contact Details

Over the next few weeks, we intend to update contact details of all families and students using a new admissions system. Please look out for our communication in this regard and update your details as necessary. Thank you.

MacMillan Coffee Morning Funds Raised

We raised £160.28 during our recent coffee morning. It is remarkable what a bake sale does for staff and student morale! Well done to all concerned with a particular nod to the RP6th SSLT youngsters who led on this.



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



Year 7 Staying Safe Day

Tuesday saw us host many outside providers who came to talk to Year 7 about staying safe. We do this every year as it is a vital learning opportunity. Year 7 were very mature throughout the day and I was very impressed with their contributions.

Combined Learning Centre

Mr Ward and I have been working on an alternative system for lesson cover at the Academy. In short, supply teachers cost significant amounts of money and do not always manage standards as we would expect to as they are not our staff.

Mr Pepper is leading our CLC strategy and staffs this operationally to great effect. We are trialling this in the main hall after assemblies have finished each day and, after seeing it at work and quality assuring the provision, it is proving successful.

As a result, should your child talk of having lessons in the main hall, this may be why.

Franz Kafka once said, "Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old", and I am keenly reminded of this as I reflect each week on our work here at the Academy. It is often very easy to become introspective and focus on the negative when focussing on the positive bears more fruit and lifts the mood. This week, I had the distinct pleasure of working with Year 10 and Year 12 in choosing a new catering company to lead on our service provision from January 2024 (more in weeks to come about that) and I was struck by the honesty, openness and really sensible feedback. Children are often able to do more than we think them capable of and I really enjoyed their company in supporting us to decide on next steps.

I am going into the weekend in positive mood. I hope you are able to do the same.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Headmaster



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