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Headteacher: Mrs Teri-Leigh Jones

Dear Parents and Carers

What a month it has been! We have been so impressed with so many of our young people this first half term and it has been a real pleasure to not only visit lessons but see our children enjoying and participating in activities outside of their timetabled lessons. The production rehearsals are well underway with nearly 10% of the school population taking part; I, along with many other colleagues, have dropped into some of them and I can safely say that this year's show is sure to be a hit!

Our sports teams have impressed us with their commitment to their training and fixtures, with some wins along the way. Thank you and well done to our young sportspeople for their involvement and making us so proud of them. Do check out our Twitter accounts to find out more about what's been going on. For the highlights and a roundup of this half-term's activities, please look out for the half termly newsletter next week.

I would like to extend a thank you to you at home for supporting the children in terms of their attendance and punctuality to school every day – it makes all the difference.

Student Voice and Parent Voice

Having met with many of our students, including regular meetings with the student leadership team and our diversity groups, we know that student voice is a high priority. Next week I will be sharing two surveys. One short survey with students to gain their views on how they feel about school, what they would like to see, and ensure we are responsive to their ideas and suggestions. The other survey will be shared with you to find out more about your views, what you want from us in terms of communication, and the confirmed details of the first parents and carers open forum which will take place after half term.

Sixth Form

Our new Study Skills Curriculum is now well under way with all Sixth Form students having an afternoon each week studying this new course. The curriculum is being delivered as a response from the Government to the "skills gap" which students will experience having spent time working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic; school Sixth Forms have been tasked with ensuring that students have the skills desired by employers and Universities by delivering tailored programmes to their students.

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Our Study Skills Curriculum is very diverse, covering the following identified areas:

- How to study effectively in Sixth Form
- Health & Wellbeing, including self-care
- IT skills for the real world
- Super-curricular study through MOOCS (Massive Online Open Courses)
- Revision skills
- Preparing for the future

By following this programme, we are confident that our students will leave the Sixth Form better prepared for the challenges of university study and the world of work.

Events and dates for your diary

Today our staff and Sixth Form students are 'wearing it pink' to raise money for Breast Cancer Now; this follows our 'wear it blue' day in aid of charities supporting cancers affecting men. Our fantastic student leadership team have been hard at work on these initiatives and these lead brilliantly into next week's 'Charity Week' where there will be fund-raising events every day to raise money for our local charitable partner, Haven's Hospice. Please keep an eye on our social media and website for pictures from the week and a total of how much we raise.

Monday 31st **October** is a <u>non-pupil day</u> – all students return to school after half term on Tuesday 1st November.

Thursday 17th November is our Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11s wanting to go into Year 12 next year. We will send out further details in due course.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

TL Jones

Mrs Teri-Leigh Jones Headteacher