

To: all Parent/Carers

21 July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

We've made it to the end of the year and therefore this is my sixth and final update of the year.

1. If you haven't had a chance to read our Ofsted report then I would recommend you do so, as we are very proud of how the school has moved forward and the experience that our young people are having. I'd also like to thank those parents who contacted the school before and after the inspection with their kind words.
2. We had a great Sports Day organised by Mrs Church and the PE department. There were a number of changes this year and as a result a huge number of students took part in some aspect of the day. This included almost everyone walking the "wellbeing mile". This was also the first year that we introduced the House system, and it was Neptune that won overall this year. I would also like to congratulate Alina Avadanei & Zach Bradley, both in Year 10, who won the *victor ludorum* (winner of the games) cup this year.
3. 75-year 9s went to Hautbois last week, taking part in a range of activities including abseiling, archery, climbing and paddle boarding. The photos suggest they had a great time and it's great to see this trip returning after 3 years.
4. From September, we are trialling serving breakfast items from the kitchen. This will include items like bacon rolls, croissants, orange juice etc. but suggestions will be welcome. It will be open from 8:10 am to 8:30 am and, should the trial prove successful, we will look to keep it open.
5. Also from September we will be adding to our CCTV system, this will include more cameras in and around site to ensure we maintain a safe school for all our young people.
6. Please take time to have a look on our Twitter feed, we publish all sorts of information about what's going on in school, it's a great way to find out about things your child/ward might also be interested in. Our Twitter handle is @TaverhamHigh, from there you will find some of our departments have their own Twitter feeds as well.
7. You should have received a reminder about uniform, I wanted to reinforce this as we require parental support to ensure all our students come to school fully prepared to learn. We are trying to raise expectations in all aspects of school, and this includes how our young people present themselves. There is direct correlation between how people dress and how they act. School uniform policy is a part of staff holding high expectations of students' behaviour and their attire reflects the values and culture of our school.

8. Further, a quick reminder that, as a minimum, all students must have with them a blue or black pen, a green pen, a pencil, a ruler and a calculator each day in order to allow them to access their learning. Please could I ask for your support in ensuring that your child/ward is suitably equipped for school every day. From September, students will be regularly checked to ensure they have the necessary equipment, so please support them and us in making sure they are ready to learn.

9. Our rewards and sanctions systems have resulted in a marked improvement in behaviour in lessons. Visitors (including parents/carers) have commented on the calmness of the school, and we intend to invite parents/carers to visit the school in the next academic year. Behaviour is moving in the right direction, and this allows all students the opportunity to learn.

10. For those of you with children in Years 11 or 13, a reminder that A-level results can be collected from 9.00 am on Thursday 17 August, and GCSE results from 9:00 am on Thursday 24 August 2023.

11. We have a small number of staff leaving at the end of the year for various reasons, this includes Miss Clifford, Mrs Hemmings, Mrs Murith, Miss Roche-Kelly, Mrs Walker and Mrs Winn. We wish them all the success for the future.

12. Our Chair of Trustees, Dr Lauren Griffiths is leaving the Trust Board at the end of the year, this is so she can spend more time travelling. However, she has agreed to become a Member of the Trust. I would like to acknowledge her hard work, unwavering support and dedication to the school, and she will be missed by all. Susan Byles will be stepping into the role of Chair of Trustees; Mrs Byles is an educational consultant and former Headteacher.

Finally, on behalf of myself, the staff and the trustees, we wish you all a great summer and can't wait to see the students ready for the start of a new year on **Wednesday 6 September for years 7, 11 & 12** followed by the whole school on **Thursday 7 September 2023**, ready for the autumn term.

With best wishes



Dr Roger Harris
Headteacher

