



# Monthly Parent Update Sheet

## February 2015/March 2015

### Food Technology Lessons

We now have 1 hour for our practical lessons in Food Technology. To enable fast progress in lessons pupils must now have their ingredients weighed out prior to the lessons. They have permission to use our digital scales either before morning registration, break and at the beginning of lunch. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

### MFL Update

**Year 11** MFL students have now embarked upon the intensive preparation for their final GCSEs. We are now completing listening and reading past papers weekly and our focus is vocabulary, vocabulary, vocabulary. We have put all of the listenings from the revision guide onto the VLE and pupils should now be regularly completing home listenings as part of their revision. As ever, we thank you for your ongoing and crucial support and ask that you help us to ensure the very best of outcomes in the summer by encouraging thorough and regular revision.

**Year 10** are currently preparing for their second controlled speaking assessment and they are working brilliantly with dedication and enthusiasm. We thank you for all of your support with purchasing the revision guides. We will use these often for homework so they are a really vital tool for independent study. We have now put all of the listenings that accompany the guides onto the VLE.

**The trips** to Germany and France are fast approaching, so can we please give you a gentle reminder to ensure that all payments are made on time. Thank you to everybody who is already up-to-date. Hopefully you recently received a group call text regarding passports. **PLEASE do check that the passports are all in date.**

**Year 9** are about to make the very important decision as to which options to take. The MFL department will be speaking to pupils over the forthcoming weeks, ensuring that all pupils know what taking a GCSE language will entail, to enable them to make a fully informed decision.

We are absolutely delighted with how well **Year 7 and 8** have taken to learning two languages. We can honestly say that pupils have totally embraced the challenge and we had some excellent feedback at Year 7 Parents' Evening. It will be fantastic to see dual linguists emerge as the years pass by.

## **Year 11 - Class of 2015 Year Book**

Please can you ensure that payment is now made in full for any pupils who have ordered copies of the Year Book. It promises to be a lovely memento packed full of pictures, awards and stories. The cost of the book is £12.00. Payment must be made via ParentPay. The book will be distributed to pupils in late May 2015.

## **Year 11 - GCSE Strategy**

To allow your child to make the most of their exam preparation time with us they will leave school to commence their study leave on **Friday 5 June 2015**. Prior to this they will have some bespoke revision lessons in departments on those days when an examination is taking place. If your child is currently underachieving in English or Mathematics you will be invited to attend a meeting with one member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss their progress, effort and preparation for these crucial GCSE's.

We look forward to seeing you at our Year 11 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 24 February 2015 to allow you to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers. On **Tuesday 3 March 2015** all of Year 11 will attend a 'how to revise' revision skills roadshow in the theatre from 12.00pm - 1.00pm, this will help to give them revision strategies and memory techniques to support effective personal study.

## **Attendance at Revision Classes once Study Leave Starts**

Once the study leave begins (and in the week prior to this) we will be putting together a bespoke range of revision sessions, some of which will be led by teachers in the lessons when they would have had Year 11 anyway. Others will be targeted sessions prior to exams, e.g. if they have Science on a Tuesday morning we will be putting in place Monday PM revision.

## **Year 11 Prom Update**

As you may know, our Year 11 Prom will be taking place on Friday 8 May 2015. Letters went out to pupils approximately 2 weeks ago and payments have already started coming in. If pupils need activation codes for ParentPay or barcoded letters please ask them to see Miss Jones.

## **Year 11 ICT Coursework Deadline**

The deadline for all Year 11 ICT GCSE coursework is the 12 February 2015. The ICT Coursework is worth 60% towards the final grade, therefore it is important this work is completed to the highest standard possible and that the deadline is met. If pupils need to catch-up and/or improve their coursework they must attend lunch time or after school classes.

On Monday 9 February 2015 there is a planned coursework catch-up session after school from 3.00pm to 6.00pm, allowing pupils every opportunity to produce their ICT coursework. We hope that you will encourage your child to produce their ICT coursework to the best of their ability and if necessary to attend catch-up sessions.

## **Year 11 Post 16 Applications**

If your child is in Year 11 and hasn't currently made an application for post 16 provision can you ask them to come to the Careers Office for help and support either first thing in the morning, break time, lunchtime or after school. In addition, students must use UCAS Progress to make applications and if they need support with this it will be provided. Any concerns please contact Mrs Waldron or Mrs Evans.

## **SEN News**

KS3 Successmaker Reading and Spelling has now restarted. Pupils have been notified if they are part of this intervention and have a sticker in the back of their planner to remind them when to attend. Parents can support by reminding their children how important it is to improve their reading or spelling ability by attending. All parents of pupils with SEN are still welcome to make an appointment to see the SENCO at any time or to ring with any concerns or queries.

## **FAME - Tuesday 10 February to Friday 13 February 2015**

Tickets are now available at £5.00 each (including 0.50p booking fee) for our school production of FAME. The show runs from Tuesday 10 February to Friday 13 February 2015 at 7.30pm. Pupils have worked extremely hard and it promises to be a fantastic show. Tickets will be available from 1.00pm - 1.30pm & 3.00pm - 3.30pm from the Dormston Centre Reception. If parents wish to phone and make their payments via card they will need to do this between 5.30pm - 8.30pm when the Dormston Centre Reception is open and the pupils can collect the tickets the next day.

## **Half Term - Monday 16 February 2015 to Friday 20 February 2015**

School will be closed for Half Term from Monday 16 February 2015 to Friday 20 February 2015. Pupils should return to school on Monday 23 February 2015. They will be returning to a Week 2 Timetable.

## **Year 11 Parents' Consultation Meeting - Tuesday 24 February 2015**

There will be a Year 11 Parents' Consultation Meeting on Tuesday 24 February 2015. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all their subject teachers so that we can update you on their progress.

## **National Careers Week - WC 2 March 2015**

The aim of this week is to raise awareness of the wealth of opportunities available to pupils post 16 and give them an idea of different career pathways open to them. As part of this week we are hoping to arrange opportunities for pupils to meet young apprentices, learn the skill of writing a CV and meet local providers. Our main event will be a Careers Fair on Friday 6 March 2015 particularly focussed towards Year 9 and 10 pupils. This will run until 5pm to enable parents to visit with their children after school.

Should you have any further queries regarding any aspect of the Careers Advice available at school please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Waldron or Mrs Evans.

## **KS3 Anti-Bullying Workshop - Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 6.00pm - 7.00pm**

A parenting workshop is taking place on Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 6.00pm in The Mill Theatre for all parents/carers who are worried about bullying. The workshop will give some advice on how you can help as a parent, as well as what support is offered in school.

## **Year 10 Work Experience Week - 16 March 2015**

All parents of pupils who have returned their work placement form will have received confirmation of their child's work experience placement once the Health and Safety check has been completed. Please ensure that you sign the form once received, and return it to school as soon as possible, as without this your child will not be able to attend their placement. Your child should also make a courtesy call or visit to their placement before 16 March 2015 to find out what is expected of them. Pupils will be expected to complete a Student Log Book of their experiences which should, once completed, help provide evidence for college references next year.

Those pupils who have not secured a work placement will be expected to attend school as normal during the week. In addition, those pupils who fail to behave appropriately whilst on placement will be required to return to school immediately and will be expected to be in school for the remainder of the week.

Finally, if in the unfortunate event your child is unwell and unable to attend please ensure that both the placement and school are contacted to make both aware of the problem. Thank you for your support with this, should you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Waldron, Head of Careers or Mrs Evans, Careers Administrator.

### **Year 9 Parents' Consultation - Wednesday 25 March 2015**

There will be a Year 9 Parents' Consultation Meeting on Wednesday 25 March 2015. Please encourage your child to make appointments with all their subject teachers so that we can update you on their progress.

### **Easter Holidays - Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April 2015**

We break up for the Easter Holidays on Friday 27 March 2015. Pupils should return to school on Monday 13 April 2015. They will be returning to a Week 1 Timetable.