



24 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of a busy and productive half term, I wanted to write as always and express my gratitude for your ongoing support. The summer feels like a long time ago, however last week saw the first snapshot of how our 2024 examination results compared to national trends and the picture once again around the progress of our students looks promising, with the key headline 'Progress 8' score sitting above national average for the third consecutive year.

This half term is always our longest and I am proud of the students for remaining focused right up until the break. It has been a really busy period across the school with lots of exciting events. Once again we have been oversubscribed in both year 7 and year 12 with 270 and 137 young people joining our academy respectively. The school is busier than ever but the energy is amazing and the sense of community and belonging is stronger than ever before. A special thanks goes to you as parents and carers for supporting us with our amended uniform guidelines at the start of term, which saw the transition to a new pleated-style skirt go without any issues.

We have worked really hard across the academy on tightening our focus around supporting students to consolidate their learning. The impact of this has been remarkable and has led to a really positive impact on homework completion and a really focused approach from students towards their assessments in all year groups.

This term, we've had a fantastic response to both extracurricular activities and house competitions. A total of 460 students have taken part in a wide range of clubs, with particularly strong engagement in football, netball, and the school show, which has reached its highest membership in three years with 47 students involved; 44 of these auditioning for a main role. House competitions have also seen great participation, with students developing key skills like teamwork and creativity. Alongside these activities, we've had a busy term for trips, with 27 Year 11 students visiting St Edmund's College, Oxford, to experience university life. Our Year 11s have also recently been on a theatre trip to see *An Inspector Calls*, an important text for their English exam. These opportunities have been instrumental in enriching our students' experiences and supporting their academic growth.

The building project is currently in its tendering phase, with an anticipated start date for the construction phase this side of Christmas. I really look forward to sharing more exciting news on this project after half term.

A reminder that students, other than those in Year 11, break up on Thursday 24 October 2024. During our INSET day on Friday 25 October 2024 we welcome our Year 11 students onsite for a Post 16 taster day. On the same day we also host a number of Year 6 students from our smaller feeder schools to ensure that the future cohort of students choosing to join us next academic year receive the best possible support with their transition.

Below is a reminder of some key dates as we look forward to the next half term:

- Wednesday 13 November - Immersion Day 1
- Friday 29 November - INSET day
- Thursday 12 December - Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Monday 16 December - Academic Celebration Event

Once again, thank you for your continued support and I hope you and your families have a lovely half term.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Jones
Principal