



December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the festive season, I am writing to reflect on what has been an excellent half term and inform you of key events happening in the half-term after Christmas.

Firstly, I would like to reflect on the successes of the first term. Year 9 students have done well and have shown resilience regarding assessments throughout their subjects. I have been particularly impressed with the attitude and resilience shown towards our Immersion Day where we had a poet and rapper visit; it was lovely to see so many students writing their own poems and 'freestyle' raps.

As part of our Christmas preparations, we have also been able to donate a plethora of items towards the Salcare food bank initiative - it is a crucial time for those suffering from food insecurity, and I have been proud of the response of my Year 9 cohort to this. Christmas Jumper Day is always an exciting time, with many students showcasing their very best Christmas attitude and spirit.

As you are aware, good attendance is an essential part of helping your child to secure the very best results at school and, therefore, the very best opportunities later in life. I am very pleased to say that attendance for Year 9 continues to be well above the national average. I wish to thank you for all your efforts in ensuring your child has contributed to our excellent attendance this term. Recognition of excellent attendance and achievements took place as part of our Celebration Assemblies this week where students also received curriculum awards.

As ever our standards around uniform are high and as we prepare ourselves for the Christmas holidays and our return in January, may I take this opportunity to remind you that students are not permitted to wear false eyelashes, nose studs or tongue piercings. Clear studs are not permitted and if students wish to wear earrings, these should be single studs in the lobe of the ear. In addition, students' hair should be of a natural colour.

There has been a whole school drive on consolidation this term and on the whole students have engaged with these tasks well. The calendar for next half term can be found below. It is important that Year 9 students take a mature approach to consolidation and homework, as we continue to build towards their target grades for Year 11 and beyond - our Assessment Week is the 2nd week back so it is vital that Year 9 students approach their first week back maturely, and with a positive attitude to learning.

[Homework Calendar - Year 9 2024/25 - Google Docs](#)

I would like to thank the parents/carers who attended our Duke of Edinburgh meeting. It was a pleasure to see you all to get this year's cohort started on their exciting journey. Please remind your child to join the Google Classroom for it, if they have not done so already.

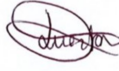
I look forward to seeing every student back after our Christmas break, refreshed, recharged and ready to make the best of 2025. We will start with an exciting term as students begin to make their GCSE choices. Please refer to Mr Graham's letter sent last week for more details about Pathways.

Yours sincerely



**Mr H Mann**

**Achievement Leader - Year 9**



**Miss L Weston**

**Assistant Achievement Leader - Year 9**