

17 October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

This has been an incredibly busy half-term, with so much going on since the start of September. Our new Year 7 students are thriving in our school, as are those students who have both progressed into Year 12, or have joined us from other schools. As of today, there are more students in our school than ever before, and I am delighted by the confidence this shows in our shared endeavours.

As is usual for the first half of the Autumn Term, we have held our run of Open Mornings for prospective parents and carers of Year 6 pupils, alongside our Open Evening. We always encourage people to visit our Open Mornings to get a feel for our school on a normal Tuesday. This is really important, and that is why we have so many of them. Again, a record number of visitors attended.

That just leaves our Sixth Form Open Evening on 14 November. Our Sixth Form numbers too, are at a record high, perhaps reflecting the exceptionally high value added score that we have received from our external analysts, Oxford Analytics.

A back drop to this half-term, as it has appeared to be for so many years, is the ongoing refurbishment works to the West and North Buildings. Work is progressing well, so that we shall soon start to see the scaffolding coming down with completion on target by Christmas. This final third phase completes the improvements that started back in 2015. It has been a long haul!

In wishing you an enjoyable half term, please note that we return for the second half of the Autumn Term on **Monday 28 October at the slightly later time of 0950**. This is in order to facilitate essential staff training. As always, please ensure that your child is in full school uniform and has all the equipment they need for the half term ahead.

Yours sincerely

Jacques Szemalikowski Head



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