

Update from the Principal

Friday 29 April 2022

Dear parents / carers,

I hope you managed to have an enjoyable Easter holiday and made the most of the sunny weather (for some of it at least). This half term is a bit shorter than the others this year, at only 5 weeks long (including Monday's Bank Holiday), but we have a great deal to fit in.

Mental Health Awareness

The week commencing 9th May is mental health awareness week (Mental Health Foundation-mentalhealth.org.uk), with a specific focus on loneliness. As we emerge from the different lockdowns and periods of either self-imposed or compulsory isolation this is a good opportunity to reflect on the long-lasting impact Covid has had on our own mental health, that of our families and those in our communities. Those of us lucky enough to work in education and other public services have possibly escaped much of the loneliness that countless others have had to go through over the past two years, but there has certainly been an impact on mental health, most acutely seen in our young people as many have really struggled to adjust to being back in school full time. It is widely reported in the media that there is a mental health crisis in England and having worked in education for over 20 years I can say with absolute certainty that this is true. It is estimated that 1 in 6 young people are affected by mental health problems, and the number of young people we see in our school who are in need of professional mental health support reflects this. Although we have a dedicated mental health worker and a fantastic pastoral team, ultimately as a school with limited resources we struggle to provide adequate help to those who need it most. I am unsure what the future holds in terms of adequately funded mental health provision for the young, but we will continue to do our best to support and safeguard our pupils. For now, it is important that we support awareness weeks and continue to raise this important issue with our politicians so that one day we can help those who need professional help get it quickly.

House Competition

Although the other Heads of House are keen to improve their points tally, with the recent win on attendance Chelston are still at the top of the board this week. We have the return of the swimming gala and sports day this term, both offering big points, so it will be great to see how the competition tightens as we progress through the summer. When we get to half term we will stop publishing the overall points score so the winning house is a surprise when it is announced in July.

A new change for this year is going to be the change in our annual celebration evening. This year we will be holding a separate evening event for each house, giving more pupils the

opportunity to be rewarded for their academic, sporting and house contributions. More details will be released soon.

Exams

Year 11 and 13 students will soon be starting their final exams. The first ones begin in a couple of weeks and then build momentum throughout June. Mr Vaughan will be writing to Year 11 parents specifically to go through the key information. Good luck to all those taking exams, if they have put the preparation in they have nothing to fear.

Oliver!

What an amazing show it was! If you were lucky enough to have seen it, I am sure you were blown away by the talent and hard work of our fantastic pupils. From the performers to the lighting, the orchestra to the stage crew, everyone involved helped to produce a truly memorable show. Well done and thank you to everyone who helped it happen. I can't wait until the next one!

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.

With best wishes.



Mr Chris Wade
Principal