



Update from the Principal

Friday 21 October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Bulletin#2022-3

Half Term

It has been a very busy half term with a real sense of normality after the disruption of the Covid years. It has been great to see sporting fixtures happening again, drama and music rehearsals, among many other extra-curricular activities. We also have had highly successful open evenings for lower school and the sixth form, the tutor evening and most recently a parent information evening for year 11 pupils. It has been so nice to be able to welcome parents and carers back into the academy after a long disruptive period caused by the pandemic. With the INSET day today, pupils get to enjoy a nice extended half term break, so I hope everyone gets some rest and comes back ready to continue with the hard work in Autumn B.

Tutor evening

Last week we held face to face tutor evenings for parents of year 7 and 11 pupils. It was lovely to see so many parents in school and meeting with tutors to discuss settling in (year 7) and academic progress. We will run a similar evening later in the year for other year groups, but can I extend my thanks to those who made the effort to come in. It is essential that we foster positive relationships between home and school in order to support all our pupils to be happy and successful in school.

Parents' evening

The next parents' evening is for year 8 on Wednesday 9 November 2022 between 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm. Bookings can be made using the MyChildatSchool app from Wednesday 2 November 2022 (8.00 am) – Tuesday 8 November 2022 (midnight).

School council visitor

We were delighted to host a visit from Chief Superintendent Elizabeth Hughes from Avon and Somerset Police last week. Along with former Huish pupils Simon Lancey (Police Sergeant), Mike Bell and Abby Linaker (both PCSO's) they spoke at length to the school council about the issues the police are currently facing and took many questions from the group. It was great to have such a high-profile member of the community in school to meet with our pupils. She has agreed to pay us another visit in the future, which we look forward to.

The Somerset Partnership

We have been working for the past several months on bringing together a group of schools that we can work with in the future to help our school, our children and staff, to develop. Whilst we are still at an early stage, we are moving forward with a partnership of a group of schools that includes four secondary schools – Ansford Academy, The Blue School, Huish Episcopi Academy and Kingsmead School – and around 20 primary/infant schools from across those areas, all of whom feed into those secondary schools.

The Somerset Partnership will be a formal alliance between these schools that is focussed solely on educational outcomes and opportunities. Currently we are developing work on five key areas identified by the schools involved, these are: securing professional development for primary phase subject leaders to ensure a consistent and high quality transition between KS2 and KS3; wider training for leaders on implementing effective learning behaviours in the classroom; working collaboratively across secondary science departments with external lead professionals to improve outcomes; developing a programme to raise literacy levels across primary the schools in the partnership; and working with aspiring leaders across the partnership to build a programme that gives opportunities for leadership, helping us to retain ambitious and enthusiastic staff.

The ambition is that all partnership schools will retain the individual character and flavour that helps them serve their local communities, whilst at the same time working together to provide each other the support necessary to deal with the many issues that we face currently. All schools that have agreed to join *The Somerset Partnership* share a similar vision and values. Individually, there is variation from church schools to non-church schools, some very small, rural primaries contrasting with some large secondaries. Regardless of their current position, all have agreed to work on behalf of *all* of the children across the Partnership.

It is not intended that this creates a MAT structure at this present time, so each individual school will retain its own leadership, governance and staffing structure. If *The Somerset Partnership* develops, then this may become a question for a future time, but you have my assurance that if this happens you will be fully consulted. Equally, *The Somerset Partnership* will not create an exclusive arrangement. All schools will have the ability to collaborate with others depending on the issues that they face, whilst maintaining close ties with all local schools.

As we emerge from the disruption that we have faced during the pandemic, it is good to look forward to a more positive future that opens up wider opportunities for the children in our school. I will endeavour to keep you up to date as *The Somerset Partnership* grows and progresses.

Behaviour and rewards

We have been keen to reward pupils who have been working hard and gained house points this half term, and it is great that so many pupils are well over 200 positive points as we reach the Autumn break. We have been giving out lots of hot chocolates and lunch queue buster passes, and next term will introduce free lunches for those who get the right number of points.

Well done to all those who have gained house points so far this year, your Head of House is relying on you getting more to win the championship.

In terms of behaviour I am concerned about some of the language a few pupils are choosing to use in school. I appreciate that foul language is not something that is filtered much on TV / Netflix anymore, and it seems almost commonplace to hear celebrities and songs with awful language, but we have to resist the temptation to allow swearing to become normal. We do challenge it in school when we hear it, especially if it is directed at a member of staff (this is an automatic suspension) but we can't tackle it on our own. If you could discuss this at home, making our young people aware that swearing is not acceptable in public spaces I would be very grateful.

House competition

To finish off the competition events this half term we had performance poet Karl Nova in school on Wednesday this week. On top of providing a great lecture and performance to Year 9 during the morning he helped in judging a poetry competition at lunchtime, won by Bethel (8 PNL); congratulations! It is always good to host Karl and we are grateful for his enthusiasm and positivity when he is with us.

In terms of the wider competition, the current points are as follows:



Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies:

- Apprentice ICT Technician
- Science Technician
- Cook
- Cover Supervisor
- Minibus driver

Please see our vacancies page for further information

<https://www.eteach.com/careers/huishepiscopi/>

Have a great half term break.

With best wishes.

Mr Chris Wade
Principal

Open Day

Lifestyle
Fitness.

Swim
School

**SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER
9AM - 1PM**

