

12 December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

We reach the end of a busy term once more. I write to thank you for your continued support. If you were able to watch our production of 'Beauty and the Beast', I am confident you will have enjoyed the experience. Likewise, if you have visited school during December I am sure the Christmas decorations and ice rink will have impressed.

Last day of term

Friday, 16 December is the last day of term and school finishes for students at 1.30 p.m.

Start of Spring term 2017

Next term begins for all students on Tuesday, 3 January 2017. Year 11 will be focusing on their exams and their preparation for the summer exams. During January all Year 11 will sit another set of mock exams.

The school day

Starting in January we have decided to trial a change to the order of the school day. This will have no impact on parents, however, we will start the day with an assembly after morning registration on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This means that it is even more important that students arrive at school by 8.25 a.m. to make sure that they are in mentor bases for 8.30 a.m. and the register. Reading and mentor time will take place at 1.25 p.m. The length of lessons will not be affected, nor will the start and finish times of the school day.

Uniform

With regards to uniform, we are conscious that we still have some students wearing incorrect clothing/shoes or who do not have a tie. From January we will be taking a less tolerant view on this and students may be sent home to change if they arrive improperly dressed. Students will then be expected to return to school. Please make sure you are clear about our uniform requirements. The uniform policy is on the school website. Students must wear a school uniform top and their shirt. We are aware that some students may be visiting the hairdressers over the holidays. I refer you to the section on hairstyles in the uniform policy.

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Key dates for next term:

- **Tuesday, 3 January** – new term starts for all students. School reopens at normal time.
- **w/c Monday, 23 January** – mock exams start for Year 11 students.
- **w/c Monday, 30 January** – Year 7-9 testing week.
- **Thursday, 16 February** – Progress review day for all year groups. There will be no normal lessons. Students only attend the progress review interview with parents.
- **Friday, 17 February** – school closed to students.
- **Monday, 20 February to Friday, 24 February** – half-term.
- **Thursday, 9 March** – Year 8 Options and Futures evening - an important opportunity for Year 8 students and their parents to meet with subject teachers and other staff to discuss the choice of courses to study in Year 9.
- **w/c Monday, 20 March** – tests all week.
- **Wednesday, 5 April** – Year 11 Parents' evening.
- **Friday, 7 April** – Annual Race at Our Place event.
- **Monday, 10 April to Friday, 21 April** – Easter break. Students return to school as normal on Monday, 24 April 2017.

Finally, on behalf of my colleagues at Park we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Walker", written in a cursive style.

Sue Walker
Deputy Headteacher