

Head's Newsletter

14 January 2022

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022! Although it feels like some time ago now, I hope you and your families had a lovely Christmas break and have had a happy start to the New Year.

The Library 'Buzz' at Lunchtime

There has been a fantastic buzz in the library during lunchtimes this week. Students have used ICT facilities within the space, participated in board games and, of course, had some reading time!



Year 11 GCSE 'Envelope Day'

Tuesday lunchtime featured our annual 'envelope day' – a chance for Year 11 to pick up envelopes summarising their winter mock grades across subjects. There are several aims of this event:

- Provide an experience that bears similarities to the collection of GCSE results in August
- Act as a motivator to either maintain similar results or to make improvements and progress in the months ahead
- An opportunity for staff to monitor student responses so we can provide support as required

It was fantastic to see lots of smiles on faces, and to hear conversations taking place regarding next steps in the months ahead. Individual exam scripts had already been used in lessons (without grades on them) as the catalyst for feedback, and the parent/consultation evening next week will be an opportunity to further explore this.

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Themed Days / Months in our Canteen – Chinese Food



New for 2022! As the year progresses, our canteen will be introducing food from around the world as the menu is further diversified. Thursday 20 January will feature a range of Chinese food – please see the menu attached for further details of what will be on offer.

Sanitary Products – Access & Support

A reminder that we have free sanitary products available in school for students that need them. These are placed in various locations for collection and are also available from reception, where there are also packs that youngsters can take home with them. If you would like to discuss any aspects of this support please contact khall@hoabrt.org.uk

What to do if your 12-15 year-old child missed their appointment at school to receive their Covid vaccination

This week we received an email from the immunisation service regarding the availability of Covid vaccinations for those who missed them when they took place at school. I have included the information below:

If for any reason your child missed the opportunity to receive their vaccination at school, or were declined their vaccination because they tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 12 weeks, you have the following alternative options. You will need to accompany your child to any venues offering the vaccination to give consent:

Booking vaccination appointments online

You can book your child's 1st dose online from the day they turn 12. You can usually book their 2nd dose from 24 hours after they had their 1st dose. You will be offered appointment dates from 12 weeks after their 1st dose. [Book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment](#)

Getting the vaccine at a walk-in vaccination site

Your child can get a 1st dose at a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site from the day they turn 12. They can get a 2nd dose if it's been 12 weeks since their 1st dose. [Find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#)

We are still awaiting news of a visit from the immunisation team to provide boosters on the school site, but will of course communicate this when/if we receive it.

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New Timetable for Lunchtime Sports Clubs

The new term has featured a 'refresh' of our fantastic lunchtime sports club offer. I have included the timetable at the end of this newsletter – it has been shared with students and is being displayed around the school.

Lunchtime DICE Meetings & Diversity in the Curriculum



It was brilliant to spend some time in a lunchtime student DICE meeting this week. The deep level of insight and thoughtful, mature student contributions were a privilege to listen to, the focus of discussion being diversity in the curriculum. One particular 'wow' moment was the fantastic explanation from one student on why we need to approach curriculum as both a window and mirror.

Prior to students returning, we held our latest staff training day with both diversity and curriculum featuring in the programme. The sessions included input from an external speaker - Aisha Thomas, a former school leader, who founded Representation Matter. She led two workshops via Zoom that were both engaging and thought-provoking.

Junior Badminton Club

Junior Badminton Club takes place on Wednesday at the Sports Centre on a weekly basis. The age group that can take part is 8-16 and the cost is £4/night (payable in half-termly blocks). The sessions can also be used as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Contact details for Paul White, who leads the sessions are 07903 794613 and paulr2677@gmail.com

Face Masks & C19 Testing – Thanks for Your Support

Students have responded brilliantly to the new guidance on the wearing of facemasks/coverings around the school. I wanted to thank families for your support in sharing this expectation, and in providing masks for your child(ren) to bring into school. The school based C19 testing ran really smoothly in the first three days back – thanks for your support in preparing your child(ren) who conducted themselves excellently.

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Free School Meals Uptake

The latest analysis of food orders in our canteen has shown that there are a large number of youngsters who are eligible for free school meals who are not claiming them, either at lunchtime or to purchase a break time snack. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any enquiries about your child's access to free school meals.

Results of 'The Big Ask' Survey

Some time ago I wrote about and provided the link for 'The Big Ask' in this newsletter, a national survey issued by the Children's Commissioner to capture the views of young people. Results of this survey have now been published and there are a range of interesting findings to reflect on. If you would like to read more, you can access the survey through the link [here](#).

Cleaning Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies to join our cleaning team. If you are interested or know someone else that might be the details are in the vacancies section of our website that you can access [here](#).

Best wishes and have a great weekend.

Ross Li-Rocchi
Head of School

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LUNCHTIME SPORTS CLUB JANUARY 2022

ALL CLUBS START AT 12.10

Day	Lunchtime
MONDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 & 11 Netball (HUP/JWI/RVI) • Year 7 Football (MST) • Open Table Tennis (RGR)
TUESDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 8 Football (CBA) • GCSE Table Tennis (RGR) • Year 7 Netball (RVI) • Year 8 & 9 Netball (HUP) • Year 11 GCSE PEP Catch up and general theory clinic (MST) ICT4
WEDNESDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Years Badminton Club (RVI) • Girls Football (MST/HUP) • GCSE Football (RGR)
THURSDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7, 8 & 9 Basketball (JWI) • Year 9 & 10 Football (CBA) • Open Table Tennis (RGR) • GCSE Netball (RVI)
FRIDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 & 11 GCSE Swimming (MST) • Y10 & Y11 Basketball (JWI) • All Years Hockey Club (RVI) • Year 7 & 8 Open Table Tennis (CBA)

EVERYONE WELCOME!

