

Headteacher:
David Pearce



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Friday 16th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As expected we had another busy week with our young people. We are in the midst of the season for tours of the school by Year 5 and Year 6 parents looking for a school for their children. Consequently I have been taking them around the school once or twice a day all week. The feedback from the parents has been outstanding and they have all commented on the excellent behaviours, learning and sociability of our students. They are an absolute credit to you as parents and carers.

Monday closure

I am sure you will have received our communication earlier in the week that we will be closed on Monday in respect to Her Majesty the Queen, Queen Elizabeth II. All taxis have been notified. School is open as usual on Tuesday.

School Improvement Partner and Governors' Visit

On Friday 16th September we received a visit from our School Improvement Partner, who is also an Ofsted Inspector, along with three of our Governors.

They undertook a walk of the school and observed the quality of our teaching and learning across a range of years and subject areas.

The consensus of opinion was that we are right to grade our school as 'Good' in all areas except behaviours for learning, where it was determined that we are in the 'Outstanding' category.

This was excellent feedback so early in the term. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, it clearly reflects the dedication of our staff and the hard work of our students. Thank you and well done to all!

DT and Outdoor Learning

The learning focus in DT this week was how to safely use the sanding machine to refine the wooden box they have been making. They have also been learning to use nails effectively and be able to remove them from wood where necessary.



In the woods the students have been learning how to use a flint and steel to start a fire safely and how to maintain it once it is going.



Student Photographs

Whole school student photographs will be taken next Friday 23rd September.

The rearranged Awards Afternoon and Evening

You should have received a more detailed letter with regards to our revised plans to hold Prizes and Awards on Thursday 6th October. As explained last week the basic plan of the day will be as follows.



Normal lessons until 10:30am

10:30am -11:00am rehearsal for Year 8,9,10

12:00pm - 12:40pm Packed lunch for all in Year areas

12:40pm - Year 7 Trip to Library

12:40pm - Drop down afternoon for Year 11s (helping with lower school Prizes and Awards.

1:20pm - 3:00pm - Years 8,9,10 Prizes and Awards afternoon

3:10pm - Taxis for all but Year 11

4:30pm - 6:00pm Year 11 and Year 12 (Last years' Year 11) Prizes and Awards evening.

Please complete and return the reply slip so that we know whether you will be attending. Unfortunately due to space we can only accommodate two seats for parents/carers.

Cinderella Pantomime Trip (Wednesday 14 December)

We are hoping to run a whole-school trip to see the pantomime 'Cinderella' at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage on the afternoon Wednesday 14th December. Students would be driven to the theatre after lunch to see a matinee performance. This would finish at approximately 4.00pm, therefore later than the usual end of the school day.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £10 per student. If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals the amount would be £5. Both prices are significantly reduced and excellent value for money considering this is a professional production.

Payments can be made via Arbor Parent Portal at <https://login.arbor.sc/> or if you have activated your account and downloaded the app, the Arbor App on Apple or Android. If you need any support with this, please contact the school office.

If we do not receive enough contributions then unfortunately the trip would need to be cancelled.

Wishing you a relaxing, safe and very enjoyable long weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Pearce', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

David Pearce
Headteacher