

Newsletter 08: 19th November 2022

Working Together to Improve Standards and Share Success

News from this Week

Anti-Bullying Week

It was great to see so many of our students wearing odd socks on Monday to celebrate what makes every student unique and individual. The leadership team led the way with a variety of colourful socks! In Values this week, discussions have taken place once again to remind students of what constitutes bullying and how important it is for them to show respect for one another by 'Communicating with Kindness' both face to face and when using social media. As you are aware, we track incidents in school using a 'Communicate with Kindness' tracker. Students know they can report incidents to any member of staff they feel comfortable with. In response to student voice, we have included no incidents each half term as one of the criteria for our half-termly reward.



Beyond the school gates, we are still seeing far more misuse of social media than we would like. Please support at home by regularly checking your child's social media accounts. Any incidents can be reported through the SHARP reporting tool on our school website. In the 'Parents' section under 'Keeping Children Safe' there are various links and guides to support you to help keep your child safe online. In the ever-changing technological world in which we live, whilst there are many advantages, one disadvantage is that children are often far more competent than adults with technology. Please use the guidance provided to help us all educate and keep our children safe.

Trust IT Filtering and Monitoring Systems

As part of our responsibilities as a trust, Paragraph 140 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 states:

'Schools and colleges are likely to be in regular contact with parents and carers. Those communications should be used to reinforce the importance of children being safe online and parents and carers are likely to find it helpful to understand what systems schools and colleges use to filter and monitor online use.'

The Trust has 2 layers across schools for the filtering and monitoring of the IT systems:

Layer 1:

- The majority of the schools have RM SafetyNet in place which blocks inappropriate websites based on categories.
- The remaining schools have a separate product- either Smoothwall or SOPHOS XG.
- There is a plan in place for all schools to move to SOPHOS XG within the next 2 years (depending on length of contract time left with current provider).

Layer 2:

- IMPERO is the classroom management system in place. Key words will be detected and alerted to key people within the school. This system is installed across all schools.

All the school's software contracts are signed up with South West Grid for Learning (SWGFL). This is a tool that checks whether a school's filtering provider is signed up to relevant lists (CSA content, Sexual Content, Terrorist content Your Internet Connection Blocks Child Abuse & Terrorist Content).

Year 11 Exams

We are nearly there! Year 11 have one more exam (English Literature) on Monday morning and then their first mock window is complete. Well done to all students and thank you to parents who have supported with attendance and revision over the last two weeks. This is just part of the journey. We must now continue in the same way until the Christmas break. Year 11 will receive their results in a manner that replicates GCSE results day on Friday 9th December. A copy will also be sent to parents. This will be followed by a parents' evening in January.

Children in Need

Thank you to all families who kindly donated to our coin mural of Pudsey for Children in Need on Friday. It was fabulous to see so many students bringing a contribution into school to help young people less fortunate than themselves. An update of exact funds raised will be provided next week.



Whole school attendance

A disappointing week! Our whole school attendance has dropped by nearly 2.5% this week, which is frustrating, particularly as a closer analysis of the data shows two key things:

- Attendance was significantly lower on the days of heavy rainfall this week. This is not a reason not to send children to school. Staff are at the gate to meet and greet rain and shine, we expect students to be in school too.
- The number of late arrivals after 9am. Legally, this is unauthorised absence. We are now in the process of implementing statutory processes with families whose children are persistently absent from school due to unauthorised absence or frequent lateness. We offer an alarm service with a morning phone call. If you need our support, then please contact Miss Kimber, Attendance Lead at heather.kimber@consilium-at.com

We appreciate there has been a sickness bug sweeping Year 7. Thank you to parents who ensured children were back in school as quickly as possible and on some days in for the afternoon session once they were feeling a bit brighter. Just a reminder that we do have the Haven Provision. If students feel under the weather but are not ill enough to be at home, just contact us and we can facilitate provision in the Haven for the day.

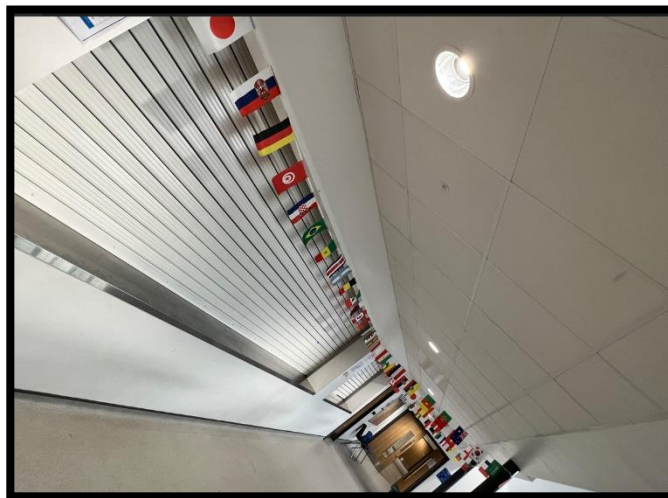
We have had a few queries about home visits this week. This is part of our attendance monitoring to not only safeguard young people but also to maximise time spent in school, as we know good attendance at school equates to progress above the national average. We have high expectations and aspirations for our learners. On many occasions this week, home visits have resulted in us getting students out of bed who have simply slept in. We will not apologise for this, as it is our role as educators to ensure we are providing the best life chances for our young people. If your child is ill, please ensure you contact the attendance line before 8:30 am. Our staff are out and about in the community from 7:30am.

Upcoming Events

Monday 21st November

We are ready for England's World Cup game on Monday! Let's hope we are not disappointed by the result! All students have now indicated as to whether they would like to watch the game or continue with curriculum studies. Lunch will be moved forward to enable all students to eat before the kick-off at 1pm. Students will watch the game in Year Groups with the staff. **Please note, Monday is not a non-uniform day, normal uniform rules apply.**

Students who have indicated they do not want to watch the football will be in year group curricular drop downs. All students will be informed of arrangements and venues on Monday morning during lesson one.



Year 10 Exams

Thank you to Year 10 parents who attended the study skills evening on Tuesday night. In order for us to assess what Year 10 'know and remember' about their GCSE courses to date, they will be sitting exams in all compulsory and option subjects in the Sports hall the week beginning Monday 5th December. I will be speaking with Year 10 students this week to give them an exam timetable and explain the processes and procedures used when sitting exams. Whilst full GCSE papers will not be used at this stage, GCSE questions will be. This will enable Year 10 to familiarise themselves with what is required and how important thorough preparation is. Once I have issued the timetable, class teachers will be supporting students by informing them about what topics need to revise. For parents who attended the study skills evening, please support by using the strategies discussed. If you missed the evening but would like the presentations, please contact us.

Year 7, 8 and 9 Exams

Year 7 & 9 will also be sitting exams in the Sports hall for core subjects. These exams will take place between now and Christmas and once again students will be issued with dates over the coming week. Exams will test understanding of curricular content to date. Year 8 have already started and will continue into next week. Details of the reporting cycle to parents can be seen in the enrolment booklet provided at the start of the year.

Celebrating Success

Some of our Year 9s recently took part in a national languages' competition with GCHQ. GCHQ is the UK's intelligence, security and cyber agency. 650 schools from across the UK took part. The challenges were very tough and involved students using language and problem-solving skills to complete missions. Our competitors were Kuba S, George C, Charlie M and Paige B. Well done to all students involved for displaying such resilience and ambition, but a special mention for Charlie and Paige who managed to reach 500 points, which is a great achievement!

As always take care and stay safe. Have a wonderful weekend!

Kind regards

Claire Robbins
Executive Headteacher