

11<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents,

Next Friday will see the return of Red Nose Day, an event traditionally held every two years. Coinciding with the event, we will be having a non-uniform day for students and ask that they make a £1 contribution for doing so. Every year group will be involved in several activities, including I am sure the odd cake sale, so if students could also bring extra cash with them for purchases, that would be helpful. This year, proceeds will be split equally between the Red Nose charities and the British Red Cross Ukraine appeal – and if students wish, they might choose to wear blue and yellow to recognise the humanitarian crisis that is happening in that part of Europe. We look forward to a fun day and plenty of red noses on show.

Tuesday next week also marks the first face-to-face parents' evening we have had in school in over two years. Whilst most evenings have been and are likely to continue virtually, we have introduced a second evening for parents in Years 11 and 13 and will be interested to compare the experiences of parents and staff between the two formats. It will be wonderful to have parents in school again after such a long break for the Year 13 event and we will look forward to repeating this two weeks later with Year 11.

The number of extra-curricular activities continues to grow and it is my hope that by the start of September 2022, we will be back somewhere close to pre-pandemic levels of 60 per week. Last weekend students were off doing their Ten Tors training and this weekend we have a number of staff accompanying the DofE students working towards their Silver award. I think they may well get pretty wet, but it will be good fun I am sure. There has been lots happening on the sporting front with success for teams locally and further afield, but special congratulations to Harry Maxwell in Year 10 who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U15 National Cross-Country Championships recently – a huge achievement.

And, finally on the topic of celebrating achievements, we are definitely going ahead with the annual Awards Evening, rescheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>, the last evening of term for students. Prize winners already know who they are, but details of the evening will be sent to parents shortly. Former student, Sally Shaw MBE, will be speaking and presenting the awards, continuing in a line of successful Sheldon alumni who have come back to share their experiences. We look forward to another very enjoyable occasion.

Yours faithfully,

Neil Soundell

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