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21st February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable and restful half term with your families. I am writing to you to remind you that our focus on equipment and uniform will continue this term. We are asking tutors to check equipment and uniform each morning to ensure that issues are resolved quickly. A reminder that we have a uniform policy so that all students look the same and cannot be singled out for looking different. Through this policy we hope to ensure that all students are free from peer pressure or the need to conform to the latest fad or fashion trend. Every time I get asked about why students cannot wear trainers or elaborate earrings or necklaces, I say the same thing. It is great if you are a child who can afford the new Nike trainers etc, but it isn't if you cannot.

We have given tutors and Heads of Year spare equipment, so students never arrive to lessons unequipped. A reminder that students should have the following:

- A black or blue pen and green pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Planner
- Calculator

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If you child regularly attends without the correct equipment or incorrect uniform, your child's tutor will give you a follow up call to inform you.

Lunchtime spaces

As the weather continues to be cold and wet, we have given dedicated indoor spaces to each Year Group, so that they have a warm and dry place to sit each lunchtime.

Year Group	Location
Year 7	A9
Year 8	Main hall and foyer
Year 9	Main hall and foyer
Year 10	H1 and H2
Year 11	H3 and H4

Assemblies

This week I have been delivering assemblies on our school values, where I have been reminding students about our expectations when walking to and between lessons. This was mentioned by students in the most recent student survey. Where students reported that behaviour in school is very good, there are some incidents of boisterous behaviour in between lessons, particularly in narrow corridors in the Humanities block. I will be reminding students of our school value of 'Being kind' which means that we shouldn't be touching other students inappropriately in corridors or walkways, by pushing or tripping them, and that their voices should be conversational in buildings. I have instructed staff to monitor this more closely this term and issue sanctions when these behaviours are seen.

I have also been talking about the horrific knife attacks on teenagers in the Bristol area, which took place just before and during the half term. As a father of a teenage son, who is a similar age to those who have been killed after being in the wrong place and the wrong time, I am worried about the increasing number of these senseless attacks. I will be talking about the reasons why people are tempted to carry knives and the dangers of doing so. This risk of permanent exclusion being one of them, but more importantly the increase risks to a person carrying them and others caught in between. I talked about us having a moral obligation to report others who talk about carrying knives or are carrying knives, so please be mindful that your child might come home and talk about this and might disclose information. If they do, please pass this on immediately to their Head of Year.

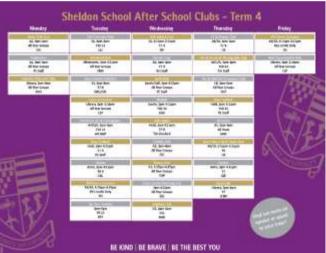
New Antibullying policy

A massive 'thank you' to the parents who gave feedback on the antibullying policy last term. We have taken this on board and are tweaking the policy accordingly. We are now also seeking further feedback from the students before the new policy is ratified and shared again.

Term 4 extra-curricular clubs

These can be found on Epraise over the next week or so, and a list, location and times of the 40+ clubs this term can be found below. Students can just turn up to these clubs or sign up on Epraise. Clubs are may change during the term so please see Epraise for updates.





Finally, I want to wish our Year 11 and Year 13 students all the best picking up their mock exam results and a reminder for parents and students to ask for support if they need it.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

With best wishes

Pete Lynch Headteacher

Key Dates document

Easter holiday	Fri 29 March 2024 – Fri 12 April 2024	SDD DAYS School Closed
Half term break	Mon 27 May 2024 – Fri 31 May 2024	Mon/Tues 22-23 July
Summer term ends	Fri 19 July school finishes 12.30pm	

Open Mornings	Parents' Evenings	Year 6 Open Evening
24-25 Jun 2024	Years 7-9 - 4:00pm - 6:30pm all f2f	Weds 26 Jun 2023
	Year 7 L side Tues 23 Apr 2024	
	Year 7 R side Thurs 02 May 2024	
	Year 8 L side Thurs 09 May 2024	
	Year 8 R side Mon 13 May 2024	
	Year 9 L side Weds 21 Feb 2024	
	Year 9 R side Mon 26 Feb 2024	
	Years 10-13 – 3:45pm – 6:45pm (f2f)	
	Years 10-13 – 4:00pm – 7:00pm (virtual)	
	Year 10 Tues 16 Jan 2024 (virtual)	
	Year 11 Tues 19 March 2024 (f2f)	
	Year 12 Thurs 18 April 2024 (f2f)	
	Year 13 Weds 27 Mar 2024 (f2f)	

Year 10 Work Experience Weeks	Year 10 Exam week
Fortnight beginning 03 June 2024	July 2024
Year 12 Work Experience Week	Year 12 Exam week
W/c 8 th July 2024 (tbc)	W/c 6 th May 2024
World Book Day 7 th March	
Staff and sixth form students will be dressing up as their	
favourite characters from their favourite book	
Red Nose Day 15 th March	
Non uniform day £1 contribution	