

Dear Parent or Carer

Apologies for the delay since my last mailing.

Trips and visits

Our staff and students have been very active outside school in recent days. We have some students in Germany at the moment learning about the Cold War. They have a packed programme – and left school at 2.30am to ensure that their first day in Berlin was a full one.

Earlier in the week a group of sixth formers returned from their visit to Rome, where they participated in a Model United Nations event. The event was set up to simulate real UN meetings, with students all being assigned roles in teams of negotiators, researchers, press and delegates. Participants are required to act like real UN delegates partaking in sessions of various UN committees. Each participant in a committee represents a different country. The delegate has to work, faithfully respecting the assigned country's standpoint, to obtain the approval of documents that favour the assigned country and the collective interest.

Our sixth formers were initially taken aback by the maturity of their fellow delegates – most were undergraduate age. They thought that they may well have been the only school group from England. Having spent the first day feeling rather intimidated they quickly found their feet and two of our students received the prize for being the best delegation!

This weekend we have a Duke of Edinburgh expedition taking place.

World Autism Awareness Week 27 March - 2 April 2017

Autism is a lifelong development disability that affects how people perceive the world and interact with others and World Autism Awareness Week helps to increase understanding of autism in the UK. According to the National Autistic Society, more than 1 in 100 people are on the autism spectrum, including an estimated 700,000 people in the UK. As part of World Autism Week we have various activities during form time for students to take part in. Activities include a 360 degree virtual reality version of the National Autistic Society's 'Too Much Information' film, which will help students to feel what it might be like to get too much information. The film has already helped millions of people gain an understanding of autism and we think it will provide students with a glimpse of how overwhelming an everyday situation can be to an autistic person. If you would like to talk to your son or daughter at home about autism, the National Autistic Society's website provides lots of information.

<http://www.autism.org.uk/>

Safety and care (1)

The following link contains information for parents about self harming. It is not a major issue in school at the moment but we felt that some parents may find the information helpful.

<http://virtualcollege.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/j/9047FD72E09974CE/6F64E8E0DEC5BC6C25D77A725F39070E>

Safety and care (2)

Bucks Safeguarding Children's Board have issued the following statement regarding online safety: we are passing it on to all parents for information. Again we have not come across this issue in school – but please do talk to your sons and daughters about it.

"The NSPCC has been warned that a new app Yellow could be used by sexual predators to groom young people. Yellow is becoming known as the 'tinder for teens' and bills itself as a "free way to make new chat friends." The app has no checks in place to verify the ages of users. Yellow lets its users swipe right and left to either like or pass on another user and, if there's a match, they can begin chatting. What's more, you can then add that person as a contact on Snapchat and send them photos or videos. "

Further information:

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/21/rspcc-warning-over-tinder-like-app-for-teenagers/

Appointment of the new Head Girl. Head Boy and Senior Student Leadership Team.

We have now finished our thorough process to select the members of our Senior Student Leadership Team for the next year. The current team who have been led very ably by Abi Foy and Sam Benbow are now stepping down to concentrate on their IB and A level exams. The new team will be

Head Boy and Girl: Matt Travers and Imogen Biggs

Deputies to Head Girl and Head Boy: Maddy Begg, Maddy Matthews, Louis Hubbick and Oliver Porteous

Lead Prefects: Sally Goillon, Darcie Kerr, Louis Cringle and Chris Wells

Dates

Next week we have our A level Music Recital on Thursday and our A level dance showcase on Tuesday evening. Our dancers and their technical crew will be holding their final Rock Challenge rehearsals in school on Friday, in preparation for their performance in Milton Keynes theatre on March 26th.

And finally ...advance notice that the last two days of term, March 30th and 31st will be Charity days when the sixth form committee pack a range of fund raising activities into two days. The events will include a non-uniform day on the last day of term.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Box
Headteacher