

8 January 2019

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families had a really enjoyable Christmas break.

Congratulations to:

- Martha Baxter (7T) and Emelia Thornalley (8S) who have attained their **Gold Merit Awards**.
- Sebastian Evans (7C), Esme Howard (7C), Megan Lake (8C), Amelia Marsh (8C) and Sophie Bird (8S) who have attained their **Silver Merit Awards**.
- Eloise Lane (9S), Hameedah Abdulraheem (9T), Emily Otter (9T), Analise Taylor (10C), Rachel Webber (10T) and Florence Baxter (11T) who have attained **40 merits**.
- Skyla Clarke (7C), George Chambers (8C), Joshua Mowbray (8C) and Charlie Webster (8T) who attained their **Bronze Merit Awards** before the end of last term. Bronze Merit Awards will continue to be celebrated and awarded in Friday's Achievement Assemblies, however they will not be included in further Tuesday letters.
- **Jensen Windsor** (10C) who won the U16 Central Cyclocross League competition at Rockingham Forest, at the weekend. We wish him luck in the Nationals at Gravesend this Saturday.

The **Y8 Options and Parents' Evening** is on Thursday 17 January, 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm. An appointments form was distributed prior to the Christmas break. A curriculum booklet outlining the various GCSE subject courses and option choices will be distributed next week, and then at the meeting further information will be given about the structure of the middle school curriculum and subject choices put in context for certain careers. The talks start at 6.00 pm followed by appointments with individual staff beginning at 7.00 pm. Please note that pupils are encouraged to attend this meeting with you and must wear full school uniform. The final deadline for option choices is Friday 22 March.

A reminder that the **Y10 Parents' Evening** takes place the following week on Wednesday 23 January and appointment sheets were distributed before the end of the last term.

As you will be aware, internal examinations start the next week for Y7, Y9, Y11, Y12 and Y13. **Y11 will receive all of their results on Tuesday 5 February, pd 3**, rather than receiving them in subject lessons (as will happen for other year groups). We have found that doing this replicates the experience of results day more closely for Y11 and it is valuable to see their results all together. Staff will therefore not be returning or going through Y11 papers until after this date.

There will be some **revision classes for Y11 and Y13** during the week beginning 15 April. Further details will follow before half term.

CHARITY WEEK

This year's Charity Week starts on Monday 4 February. Each lunchtime that week, forms will be organising events to raise money and there will also be a Charity Fun Run on Tuesday 12 March and the Spring Celebration on Friday 22 March.



GCSE and A Level Examination Certificates are available for collection from the school office. Former students should arrange to collect them or email or forward a letter to school nominating a person to collect them on their behalf.

This term's areas for our **Whole School Literacy Focus** are below. I hope it is helpful for you to be aware of these.

Finally, I would like to welcome **Mrs M Pearson** to the staff, who has joined us this term as Teacher of French and Spanish and welcome back **Mrs Dennis** following adoption leave.

Best wishes



Miss A Francis
Headteacher

Term 3 – colon (:) and semi-colon (;)

- The **colon** is used to introduce items in a list e.g. the ingredients needed are: chocolate, milk, bananas and ice cream.
- The **colon** can also be used to introduce a sentence which explains something about the previous sentence e.g. the student was furious: the teacher had lost his coursework.
- The **semi-colon** can be used to break up items in a longer list e.g. she enjoyed chess which her dad had taught her; played the piano which she had been having lessons in since she was six; visiting her local wildlife sanctuary and reading science fiction novels.
- The **semi-colon** should also be used to join two sentences of equal importance which are related in meaning e.g. The cat sat on the mat; the dog sat in the basket.

Term 3 – affect/effect

- **Affect** is a verb meaning to have an effect on someone or something or make a difference to them e.g. the weather may affect the plans for House Athletics. As a verb, it can take different endings e.g. he affects, we are affecting, she affected.
- **Effect** is a noun meaning (1) a change that is produced by an action or cause e.g. the effect of his actions; (2) an impression produced on a spectator or hearer e.g. the news had a positive effect.
- **Effect** can also be a verb meaning to bring about or accomplish something, but needs an object for it to make sense in this usage e.g. none of the doctors could effect a cure.

