21st September 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted with how pupils have returned to school and the very settled start that they have made to the new term. Thank you for your ongoing support with equipment and homework – it is very much appreciated. We thought it would be a good time to now send out some key reminders regarding curriculum, homework, assessment and how we communicate with parents.

Homework will be set each week and more frequently at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. A copy of our homework policy and homework timetables can be found on the website (HERE). Staff set homework on the SIMS App so that pupils and parents/carers can access the homework each day through Pupil and Parent App. If a pupil has a problem with homework, they should speak to their class teacher before the lesson when it is due to be handed in, to ask for support. We also run a Homework Club where your child can access staff support. You may find that some homework makes use of learning platforms such as SENECA in Science, Bedrock in English and MathsWatch or Dr Frost in Mathematics.

Curriculum information for each subject is available on our website (HERE). This provides you with information about which subjects your child will be studying and the sequence of the topics. Your child will also have a checklist in their exercise books at the start of each topic telling them what they will be learning about. The curriculum information also includes the statutory curriculum for Relationships, Sex and Health Education along with our policy and some helpful information for parents/carers. There is a page devoted to the personal development of our pupils where you will find lots of information about how we support this very important aspect of our curriculum.

We will assess each child via a combination of formative and summative assessment. Formative assessment is a planned ongoing process during lessons e.g. question and answer, whereas summative assessment usually takes place at the end of a unit e.g. a test. Pupils will receive information about when a summative assessment is taking place in lessons and will also be guided about what revision and preparation they need to do. This information will also be provided on the SIMS app. Teachers will provide feedback on assessments and in exercise books and pupils are provided with time to respond to this feedback in green pen. The green pen work in pupil books is where they have added to or improved their work or completed some self or peer assessment/reflection. In addition to summative and formative assessment in lessons, there are some key exam dates which are as follows (please note that Year 7 will have exams in English, Maths and Science but these will take place during lessons and pupils and parents will be notified of the date of these in advance via the SIMS app):

<u>Year</u>	Week Beginning	<u>Subjects</u>
Year 8	06/03/23	Maths/English/Science
Year 9	17/04/23	Maths/English/Science



<u>Year</u>	Week Beginning
Year 10	26/06/23
Year 11	28/11/23 and 06/02/23
Year 12	09/01/23
Year 13	28/11/23

In order to help your child prepare for exams, they will be provided with revision advice in Learning for Life lessons, subject lessons, assemblies and will be able to attend subject intervention, particularly for mock and actual Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 examinations. We use all of the information that we collect about your child to report to you three times each year. This will include information about both progress and behaviour for learning.

The reporting deadlines for the year are:

Progress Report 1 for Year 13: Progress Report 1 for Year 11: Progress Report 1 for Key Stage 3, Year 10 & 12:	21/10/22 07/11/22 25/11/22
Progress Report 2 for Year 11 & 13:	20/01/23
Progress Report 2 for Key Stage 3, Year 10 & 12:	31/03/23
Progress Report 3 for Year 11 & 13:	28/04/23
Progress Report 3 for Key Stage 3 & Year 12:	14/07/23
Progress Report 3 for Year 10:	21/07/23

We have placed your child in teaching groups that we feel best match their ability. We will use formative and summative assessment to review pupil groups to ensure that they are placed in the most appropriate group to allow them to make the best progress. We will inform parents/carers of any changes to sets. Whilst we take a holistic view to assessment, it is important that pupils do revise and prepare well and they will be guided by their teachers as to how best to prepare for each summative assessment.

We really appreciate the work that you do behind the scenes at home to support your child's learning. We are running a number of parent sessions to help you to support your child still further – details of which were sent out earlier this term.

I hope you find this information helpful. A copy of this letter and each letter sent home is available on the school website. We also send out a termly newsletter and post regularly on Twitter.

Yours faithfully

Mr I Smith Headteacher