

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 18th February 2022



Dear Parent/Carer,



As we approach half term, I think we have much to be proud of as a school and we definitely feel things are returning to some kind of normality, despite the inevitable, occasional Covid cases. Our students and staff have worked hard and are definitely ready for a rest! I'd like to thank you for all the support you have given to your child/children this half term and to our school. It is enormously appreciated and has a huge impact.

We continue to receive excellent feedback about our students from visitors. For example, Loudmouth Theatre Company, the presenters of the Working for Marcus workshops on child sexual exploitation, stated: "We just wanted to feed back how impressed we were with the students. They displayed healthy attitudes to the topic and gave a range of well thought out answers." Similarly, some of the presenters of the Year 8 Job Taster event contacted us to say: "We really enjoyed hearing from the children and they were all very well-mannered and well-behaved while talking to us." and "Great event and what a great bunch of kids!"

Due to the high level of trespassing on the railway tracks by young people in our local area and nationally, Network Rail, in partnership with Learn Live, are working to help raise awareness to students, educating them about the dangers. Our school has been supporting this important work and we have shared an educational video with students about this issue.

Whilst students in Year 11 and 13 will want to take some time to recharge their batteries, their focus now needs to be on this summer's exams and ensuring that they make use of half term to start planning their revision and reflecting and acting upon the messages from the recent Elevate workshops. They also need to decide upon which Easter revision classes they will attend, if they haven't already returned the booking forms for these please. Year 11s will have their next set of trial exams from 21st March until 8th April.

We are delighted that we are going to be able to hold our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday, 3rd March and we look forward to welcoming Year 11 students from our own school and from other schools in the local area to this important event.

I hope the students have an enjoyable half term and that you get some quality time together.

Best wishes,

Headteacher

Please note: details of all these items are on the Able & Ambitious Google Classroom pages and they will also be communicated through Sharepoint where necessary. All competition entrants will be awarded House Points for entering as well as prizes for the winners.

All Years:

A survey is being done this week to find out what prizes each year group would most value winning with their House Points. The results will be collated after half-term then prizes will be organised, including approaching local businesses.

BAFTA's Young Presenter Competition is open for entries! This year, they've changed the age categories to 10-14 and 15-18, which means they're on the lookout for two winners. Create a short video on this year's Children's Mental Health Week theme – Growing Together – and submit here <http://www.baftakids.org/competitions/young-presenter-competition-2022> for your chance to win.

Year 7 and 8:

There is a Bikeability scheme (the equivalent of Cycling Proficiency) on over half-term at the Pingles that students can take part in for free and learn to ride safely and confidently on the road.

Year 8 and 9:

The Fashion Design Competition was launched on Thursday to win an exciting fashion-based prize.

Year 10-13:

Anyone interested in a career in basketball is invited to apply to Moulton College in Northamptonshire.

Staff:

House badminton tournaments were played on Monday and Tuesday which brought a lot of laughter and some pretty reasonable skills. Luctamen won on Monday and Mr. James' underrated athletic prowess triumphed for Honestas on Tuesday.



15,643



15,232



14,958

BULLETIN BOARD

All Years

Sixth Form Open Evening 2022 - Higham Lane Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 3rd March 2022 from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm

Information from the Department for Education for Parents of pupils aged 5-17 years old on the Vaccination Programme - Vaccinations help to increase protection against COVID-19, which is particularly important for those with underlying health conditions. Being vaccinated minimises the need for children and young people to have time off from school or college, and helps them to continue to carry out their hobbies, attend social events and live their lives to the full.

We have published some [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19. Guidance on how to [book appointments](#) for children aged 12 years and over is available on the NHS website. Further information on the vaccination of high risk children aged 5 to 11 years old is available in the [guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years](#) published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

Fobs - Please ensure your child has a fob and brings it school every day if they wish to purchase food from the canteen. Failure to bring their fob may result in them not being served in the canteen. Fobs may be purchased during form time only and cost £1. Thank you.

GCSEPod - Have you seen your son/daughter using GCSEPod at home? The half term holiday may be an ideal opportunity for them to explore the site, watch some pods and try some of the activities. There are a range of resources available to support your son/daughter with their studies. All they need is their Google Classroom username and password to access the site. Prizes will be awarded to those students who make the most use of the site!

Year 8 - Please note that the form for indicating your son/daughter's option choices will be issued on Tuesday 8th March following the second of the two taster days for students interested in Business, Drama, Health and Social Care and Sociology. We have extended the deadline for returning the form to Monday 14 March to allow you and your son/daughter a few extra days to decide upon their option choices.

Year 9-13 - Sneak a peek into nursing/psychology events - If you are interested in the sneak a peek events, please check your Year Group Google Classroom streams for further information on how to. Your information needs to come to Mrs Mitchell (office in the library) and not straight to the NHS.

Year 11 - Elevate 'Ace Your Exams' event - On Tuesday 15th February we welcomed a team of presenters from Elevate to run an 'Ace Your Exams' workshop for all Year 11 students. The year group was split into 9 groups to work on exam preparation tasks, ways to fix mistakes to ensure improvement, time management in exams and techniques for managing stress. The feedback from our students was incredibly positive and they feel more confident in how to prepare effectively for their exams.

In the evening, all Year 11 parents and carers were invited to join an online event run by a presenter who had worked with Year 11s during the workshops in school. Parents and carers were able to participate in a live Q & A session as well as gain information on key study habits, time management, encouraging motivation, and how best to support their child in recognising and achieving their goals.

Jayne Ayliff - Learning Mentor



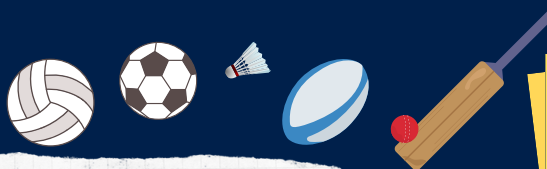
Year 13 - Well done Year 13 for the first week of your trial exams. Please make sure you are prepared for the last week of trial exams on your return.

SCHOOL GAMES FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

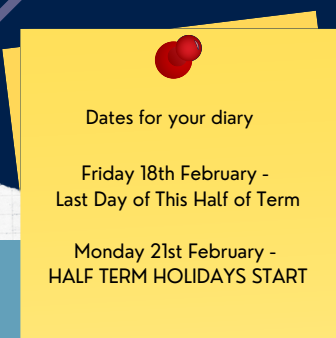
The Year 7 girls put on heroic performances in the School Games Football Tournament held on 3rd and 10th Feb at Etone. They were up against teams who were vastly more experienced and who were mostly Year 8s, yet they played every minute with maximum effort, a great attitude and smiles on their faces. I can honestly say I was extremely proud of every single one of them. Mr Bottrill

NETBALL RESULTS

Netball results for WB 7th February 2022:
Year 7 vs Twycross: Lost 19-6 (POM: Georgina S)
Year 11 vs Twycross: Won 23-17 (POM: Lucia C)



Don't forget - all of our [Careers and Apprenticeship](#) information can be found on our website!
[Click here](#) to view more information on a variety of exciting opportunities!



Dates for your diary

Friday 18th February -
Last Day of This Half of Term

Monday 21st February -
HALF TERM HOLIDAYS START

BOOK OF THE WEEK

'Escape Room' by Christopher Edge

A group of children take part in an escape game, only to discover that the puzzles they have to solve are far more serious than they expected.

When twelve-year-old Ami arrives at The Escape, she thinks it's just a game - the ultimate escape room with puzzles and challenges to beat before time runs out. Meeting her teammates, Adjoa, Ibrahim, Oscar and Min, Ami learns from the Host that they have been chosen to save the world and they must work together to find the Answer. But as he locks them inside the first room, they quickly realise this is no ordinary game.

From a cavernous library of dust to an ancient Mayan tomb, a deserted shopping mall stalked by extinct animals to the command module of a spaceship heading to Mars, the perils of The Escape seem endless. Can Ami and her friends find the Answer before it's too late?

More Christopher Edge stories to enjoy
from the school library!

