



24th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

End of Term 1 2024 & Important Dates for Term 2

We have had an extremely productive and successful few weeks back at school. Although Term 1 is always busy with our new Year 7 inductions and settling in, open evening, school tours and parents' evenings, the school has remained a calm and productive learning environment where our students are making good progress.

The school is continuing to grow in popularity and we have welcomed a significant increase in the numbers of families attending both our open evening and school tours.

Our focus this term on rewarding our students for excellence in their approaches to learning has manifested itself in a variety of ways. Many students have been seen and rewarded for their excellent work when being sent to my office to discuss the exemplary work in their books. It is indeed an absolute pleasure and privilege being able to discuss the curriculum and the quality of work our students are producing. Postcards, positive phone calls and regular praise through achievement points are continuing to be used by our staff when students are working and achieving well with us.

Our student leaders have been working hard and have created their own strategic plan which can be seen on the school website. One particular area they will be focusing on will be to gather the students' perspective on The Holmesdale School experience through student voice sessions during ECCO time. By Christmas, they will have met with all students in Key Stage 3 to listen to their views and respond accordingly.

Academic Success and Community Spirit

Our students have continued to amaze us with their achievements and positive contributions to school life.

Our Year 8 boys' football team had a truly incredible comeback in the Kent Schools Cup, showcasing their resilience and skill. Year 11s received invaluable guidance from CCCU on how to manage their studies and ace their GCSEs. They learned effective revision techniques and strategies to stay organised and focused.





Our Year 12 students organised a fantastic bake sale as part of our 'Wear it Pink' day, raising a substantial amount for Breast Cancer Awareness. They baked up a storm and sold their delicious treats, demonstrating their generosity and community spirit.

We also welcomed our newly elected school council, who are already making a positive impact on our school community. Our walk-in clinic with Kent Police was a great opportunity to strengthen our relationship with the local community and police officers.

Finally, our rewards assemblies were a celebration of our students' hard work and achievements. Hundreds of awards were presented, and nearly 4000 achievement points were awarded across all year groups. It's inspiring to see our students continue to strive for personal excellence.

Teaching & Learning Updates

This first term has seen students return to the routines and expectations for learning, resulting in high quality work and the opportunities to celebrate student achievement and learning.

As a school we continue to ensure the learning strategies implemented in classrooms are driven by research and help students and staff to promote positive learning habits. Retrieval practice remains to be a key focus of all lessons, and this aspect of learning is being further developed through the digital home learning approach.

This term has seen our school at the top of the Seneca Learning leader board within Swale Academies Trust, which shows the commitment of students to engage in their learning through this effective learning platform.

Over this term and next, we aim to further improve the learning diet of students with greater use of whiteboards to capture student learning and to allow teachers to provide 'in the moment feedback' to support progress.

Next term will see the introduction of parent curriculum booklets which we hope support the conversations with your child about their learning. The booklets will contain learning journeys for each curriculum area so will be able to see the topic area they have and will be learning about.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Prebble
Headteacher

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Important Dates for Term 2:

Start of Term 2	Monday 4th November 2024
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Thursday 7th November 2024
INSET Day	Friday 29th November 2024
Year 11 Parents' Evening	Thursday 12th December 2024
Last day of Term 2	Friday 20th December 2024 (students to finish at 12.45pm)

