



21st October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

End of Term 1 & Beginning of Term 2

A long and productive term has seen a strong start to the academic year here at Holmesdale. Our annual Open Evening followed by the Open Morning tours was a real success with many more parents choosing to look at the school as their first choice in the area. The evening itself displayed the school in a very positive light and it was frequently commented on how well the student ambassadors presented themselves to our visitors. We had over 100 students support this event which is 20% of the school community.

Below are some updates to share:

Winter months library opening times

After half-term the library will be open before and after school for students to access this learning facility. These will be supervised sessions where attendance is monitored. It is imperative that your child attends if a place is reserved for them. Should your child be absent from their booked session a telephone call will be made as this is a safeguarding issue.

The hours will be 7.30am – 8.45am and 3.15pm-5.30pm.

If you wish your child to take up this opportunity, please email the office to book a place. This will only be available to students on the list.

Year 11 and 13 PPEs exams

The first round of PPEs exams begin on Tuesday 2nd November. Students from Year 11 will be issued with a revision pack prior to the holiday if they attended the parents evening. A further copy of the exam schedule for both years is enclosed.

6th Form Open Evening

This event will take place on the evening of Thursday 18th October and will showcase the courses and experience of the 6th form here at The Holmesdale School. Invites will be personally given to our Year 11 students during their consultation evening and on the last day of term.

Safeguarding – Online safety

Over the half term break it is important that students and families are kept safe. Remember, if there are any concerns, you can email The Holmesdale School Safeguarding Team on DSLs@holmesdale.kent.sch.uk.

Online safety is of paramount importance, particularly during school holidays. One in five internet users is a child and as a school, we want to do all we can to ensure students can use the internet safely and positively. The NSPCC website provides some useful tips (<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>) for families about how to stay safe



online. You can also access other forms of support on the school website under the safeguarding tab.

Homework

Homework and independent learning which takes outside of the classroom can play a vital part in learning. All homework set by teachers is recorded on Show My Homework. The Homework Timetable published on the school website provides an overview of when your child is expected to focus on specific subjects. It is expected that your child completes homework every day to support their progress.

Christmas Fair

Please save the date for our Christmas event which will take place on **Friday 10th December** from 6pm-8.30pm. Further details will be sent out nearer the time.

Kent Teacher of the Year Awards

I am pleased to inform you that this year we had several nominations from parents, students and staff at the school for these awards. My congratulations go to Mr Badham who won the award for the Maidstone District Science Teacher of the Year.

I would also like to congratulate Mrs Karen Harris who won the overall Kent Teaching Assistant of the Year.

Celebration of Progress

One of our priorities this year is Beautiful Books in which we expect all students to take pride in their work communicated through their presentation standards, quality, and quantity of work completed in every lesson. We feel it is important for you to see the progress your child is making across the curriculum and therefore over the weekends of November your child will be bringing their books home starting with Year 10 students. Further communication in relation to this will follow on our return from the half term break.

Year 10	6/7 th November
Year 9	13/14 th November
Year 8	20/21 st November
Year 7	27/28 th November

Please remember that the first day back for students after half-term is Tuesday 2nd November.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Prebble
Head of School