

# Principal's Newsletter

Season 2 Episode 15

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January

Welcome back after what was hopefully an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. I hope that all our students found time to relax and spend time with friends and family. 2018 promises to be a busy and exciting year, so we will need lots of energy to make the most of it!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the new Homework Club and Private Study sessions have now started. These run on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 3pm until 4.15pm. Homework Club is for Years 7 and 8 while Private Study is aimed at Years 9 to 11. We hope many of our students will start making the most of this quiet place to work and revise.

Further trials will also take place this half term looking at adapting the pattern of time outside of lessons to create a shared lunch and a form time at the start of the day. We want to make sure this does not disrupt the flow of the day or affect the quality of learning. We will be asking students and parents their thoughts on the proposals in the coming weeks.

As the New Year kicks into gear, we also reach one of the most significant milestones for our students this month. On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, we will be welcoming year 8 students and their families to their Options Evening. This event is a chance for students to hear about the range of subjects they have access to, and begin thinking about some key choices they have to make. Arrival is from 6pm, with the main talk starting at 6.30pm, and we look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Finally, you may be aware that we have had a couple of break-ins recently. Over the Christmas holiday, we suffered a major theft when the majority of our lead was stripped from our buildings. It is so sad that at a time of the year when we are encouraged to think of others some members of the public have targeted a place where young people learn. Unfortunately, the cost of repairs is less than our excess, so at a time of enormous financial challenge further strain is put on our budget. Then, last weekend there was a second incident when further members of the public broke into our kiosk late on Friday night. They caused significant damage and stole several items, again causing more expense and disruption to the school.

From this, I ask two things of you all. Firstly, please be vigilant around our community, there are clearly people who do not recognise the importance of maintaining our community spaces for the benefit of all. Secondly, we will be doing several pieces of fundraising in the coming months to try to ensure these incidents do not mean we have to make cuts elsewhere. I would urge you to support these events, and if you are interested in donating to the school in any way to help us raise funds, through items, time or money then please do get in touch.

Dr Fox

Principal