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11th February 2022

Dear Parent,

All too quickly, we have arrived at the last newsletter for this half of the Lent term. I think all pupils and families will be ready for a break to recharge batteries. We have had a number of pupils with Covid over the past few weeks and this has caused some strain for them. I know that the week break will do them good. Hopefully, it will provide a natural break between everyone and thus, a marked effect on Covid infections.

Assessment week appeared to go smoothly. We have spoken at length to ensure that pupils know that it 'is all about trying ones very best and preparing well'. We also like to keep things in perspective too. If certain areas do not go as well as wished, it is what a person 'does about it' that really counts. Tutors will be continuing to guide children toward the various academic clinics and homework group opportunities available through the week.

Period grades will be published soon for this term.

It was good to read the impressive list of LAMDA Distinction awards achieved at various grades by the Lower School pupils. Tabitha Gallagher, Esther Gratton, Megan Pritchard, Kaylee Mellor and Sienna Hanratty should be proud of their achievements.

Please could families ensure that each pupil has a personal reading book in their school bag. This should be a different book from any being studied in class. We encourage personal reading as much as possible and should a child finish prep, it is a good time to focus on reading for enjoyment.

The weather has been cold over the past couple of weeks. We remind pupils to bring a warm coat, hat and gloves in to School for playtime and moving between lessons. There are still a number of children looking cold at breaktime. It is also wise to have a spare pair of old trainers in a locker to try to keep the wet and mud to a minimum as we work through the busy week. On a similar note, it is important that all pupils have warm kit for PE and games lessons. The school tracksuit is essential and skin base layers may be worn too! All of these items help pupils to get the most out of their learning. The swimmers and team players particularly need to be warm as they travel to their training/events, etc.

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It is worth a note to say that Year 8 Parents' Meeting is on the horizon after half term. This meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1st March and will start in the Arts Centre and then progress to the top floor of Lower School. It is a chance for parents to hear from the new team for Middle School and Mrs Pritt-Roberts will explain a little on how the curriculum moves forward. Parents then move on to speak to subject teachers in the Lower School building, more details will follow via InTouch.

It is worth noting that all communications requesting pupil leave of absence for 3 days or more should be directed to Mr Wignall. He has to authorise the longer breaks from School. If families require authorisation for an individual event or up to a couple of days for special reasons, the request can come to me via the Lower School secretaries.

Please contact the Lower School secretaries, Mrs Lowe or Mrs Arrowsmith, with any concerns regarding arrangements as we move towards half term. School transport departs as normal at the end of this half term.

Have a good half term when it arrives.

Yours sincerely