

10th November 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

I wanted to write to parents/guardians again this week after last night's presentation evening. Our annual presentation evening celebrates student success and once again it was a delight to recognise the achievements of our students and community. The theme was respect and our guest speakers, Barry and Margaret Mizen, shared their message of forgiveness, peace and hope. They also spoke about the importance of sharing love and gratitude, which is particularly pertinent at this time where conflict threatens so many across the world. My message was to remind ourselves that there is more that unites us than divides us and I am grateful to the students, parents/guardians, staff and distinguished guests who joined us last night.

As ever, the real highlight of the evening was our students. The school choir sang beautifully, the musicians were impressively accomplished and our student leaders were exceptional. Our Head Student, Tia, and our Deputy Head Students, Olivia and Niyah spoke confidently and eloquently about their journeys and shared their advice to younger students, reminding us to take advantage of opportunities, that it is never too late to make a change and that hard work does lead to success.

### **Trips and visits**

This week has again seen a number of trips and visits take place. On Monday a group of Sixth Form students visited a university, apprenticeship and careers fair to support their post-18 choices. On Tuesday and Thursday this week, Year 11 History students visited historical sites in London linked to their GCSE topic of migration. Students had a guided tour in Whitechapel and explored key areas in Notting Hill which highlight the impact of Caribbean migration after 1948. Students enjoyed being able to walk the streets of places they have been studying and I would like to thank Mr Sills, Head of Year 11, for organising the History trip and Mr Amos, Teacher of Politics, Law and Citizenship, for the Sixth Form trip.

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

We are looking forward to our Sixth Form Open Evening which will take place on Wednesday 15th November from 5-7.30pm. Please click [here](#) for the letter which has been previously shared and contains full details of the event. Year 11 students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and I would also remind students and parents/guardians that the application form for the Sixth Form is exclusively open to current Year 11 students, enabling our students to reserve their conditional place in the Sixth Form. The form has been shared in Year 11's Google Classroom and can also be accessed [here](#).

### **Remembrance Day**

The whole school paused at 11am this morning to take part in two minutes' silence to pay our respects to the armed forces community, emergency services and families, and those affected by conflict and acts of terrorism. I would like to thank the Year 9 ambassadors who have been selling poppies as part of the Poppy Appeal all of this week, and students and parents/guardians who made donations and bought poppies. The students' behaviour this morning was exemplary as they showed their respects.

### Reminder - banned items

I would like to remind parents/guardians that there are a number of banned items at the school. These include: inappropriate or dangerous items; smoking-related items; and also items that could be considered inappropriate or dangerous, for example toys, laser pens or replica items. Please contact your child's Head of Year should you have any questions regarding items that may be a banned item.

### Coats and outdoor wear

As the weather is now turning colder and more changeable, I would like to remind parents/guardians to ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Students are allowed to wear coats but must remove these once they are inside the building and store them in lockers. Coats can be worn outside during break and lunch time but cannot be carried around the building.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of our community a peaceful weekend and, for all members of our community celebrating Diwali this weekend, I wish you all a very happy Diwali.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies  
Headteacher