

Ref: L\SLT\Letter to Parents\End of Term arrangements.docx

19<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy and challenging term we all look forward to a well-earned Easter break during which we will hopefully re-energise ourselves ready to face the further challenges that are part and parcel of school life.

The focus in year 11 is very much upon preparation for the GCSE examinations. Revision and “catch-up” sessions are taking place across many subjects – mostly at the end of the college day. These will increase as the examinations get nearer. Year 11 students are encouraged to attend and should remain in the building and go straight to the classroom at the end of the normal school day. They should not go to the shop or anywhere else prior to these sessions as this wastes time and disrupts the learning of others. Revision sessions can then start and finish promptly – after which all students should leave the premises immediately for home.

Options are upon us for year 9 students who are now making their choices.

Enrichment activities have been taking place in other year groups and some of your children have taken the opportunity to be involved. For example:

- Year 10 students have progressed to the northern finals of the English Speaking Union *Public Speaking Competition*.
- Year 8 students have established a very successful reading group that meets at lunchtimes in the *Bibliotherapy Room* and promotes the enjoyment of reading.
- Year 11 Food students attended a fantastic “Afternoon Tea” master class at Accrington and Rossendale College, and were great ambassadors for the college.
- Key Stage 3 students are responding very positively to the new “Computing” curriculum. Students are creating programs and games in a number of programming languages. Kodu Klub has been launched for year 7 and is being run now by three year 7 students.
- STEM club has been established to promote involvement and interest in careers in science, technology, engineering and maths.
- It is *National Science Week* this week. Year 8 students will be visiting Chester Zoo and some of years 9 and 10 will be entering the Society of Biology competition.

I thank the staff and the students for the time and the effort they have put in to creating these opportunities and making them valuable experiences for all who have been involved, and I thank you as parents for your continued support.

At the end of term, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, the college day for students will end at 1230pm. Please make arrangements for your child to get home safely at that time. Children who are entitled to a free school meal will be able to collect this from the canteen.

***Did you know ... just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the college gets extra money?***

***Register now to make sure we don't miss out***

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

With this money we could support the needs of all our students through the purchase of extra resources and extra opportunities for learning outside the classroom. If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also benefit from assistance with costs of college trips. **Please register as soon as possible to make sure your child and others in their class don't miss out.** Registering is really quick and easy and, if you feel you qualify, contact the Pupil Access Team on **01254 220711** who will help you to register.

I would politely ask that all parents who drop their children off by car at the start of the day or who pick them up at the end of the day do so in a manner that is respectful of the highway code, other road users, pedestrians and local residents.

In particular I would ask that you do not park in places that cause a restriction to the flow of traffic (such as the top section of Edge End Lane). Most parents of course do this, but these can be very busy and fraught times of the day and we have had a number of instances recently where tempers have frayed slightly. Our concern is for the safety of your children and it is for this reason that we have members of staff on duty at the entrances to the college. We are not in a position to manage the traffic on site or in the roads around the college.

I would further ask that you arrive in good time so that you avoid any last minute rush and so that your child arrives in time to start the day properly. Children should be in the building before 0840 so they can prepare themselves for the day and get to their form rooms in plenty of time for registration at 0845. I would also ask you to note that in compliance with Food Standards, students should not be drinking energy drinks that contain a high caffeine content which are clearly marked as unsuitable for children. These drinks are not allowed in college.

We wish you all an enjoyable holiday and look forward to seeing the students back here by 0840 on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, in full school uniform, refreshed and ready to take advantage of the opportunities that lay ahead.

Yours sincerely,

I C Adlington,  
Acting Headteacher.