

25th March 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am conscious that it was two years ago that led to the closing of schools during the first lockdown and I am saddened that COVID continues to impact both the school and our daily lives. I have said it many times and I think it is worth reiterating that I remain genuinely proud of everything the school community has achieved over the past two years. As we live with COVID, it has been wonderful to open the school up to visits from families at a number of events over the past fortnight and to see the community working together in person once again.

Year 9 options evening

Last night's options evening gave Year 9 students and their families the opportunity to hear about the process of choosing subjects for study in Years 10 and 11, both through the talk I delivered with Ms Horton, Assistant Headteacher; and Mr Elsby, Head of Year 9, and through presentations from subject teachers. Members of the student leadership team were also on hand to answer any questions and to offer advice about the process from their recent personal experience. Students should now be selecting their preferences using the information in the options booklet, which was shared previously and can be found [here](#), by Wednesday 30th March 2022.

Post-18 Information Evening

I am sure Year 12 students, parents and guardians will agree that the post-18 information evening on Tuesday 15th March 2022 was an incredibly useful event. I would like to thank Mr Peacock, Head of Year 12; and Ms Horton, Assistant Headteacher for organising the evening. Please click [here](#) to read the presentation from the event.

Safeguarding week

This week has seen students receive a number of tutorials, lessons and presentations related to safeguarding. This culminated in today's visit from the Mizen family, who spoke to students in Years 7-9 about the tragic murder of their teenage son Jimmy. This was the third visit from the Mizens to the school and their powerful message of peace, love and hope was incredibly moving and I know impacted many of the staff and students who heard the talks today.

Assessments

Students have been undertaking assessments, or preparing for assessments, in a number of year groups this half term. I would like to thank students for their hard work in preparing for these assessments and for their mature approach to the procedures for undertaking examinations in the school.

Musical instrument lessons

Hillingdon Music Service is now accepting applications for instrumental music lessons in schools. Lessons are £74 per term and instrument hire is £21 per term. Reduced rates are available and the school can provide financial support to students and, as part of our commitment to the expressive arts, will pay for lessons for students studying GCSE Music. Please click [here](#) for more information.

End of term arrangements

Students' last day will be Friday 1st April 2022 when they will be dismissed at the following times:

| | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Sixth Form |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|------------|
| Dismissal time | 12:10 | 12:10 | 12:10 | 12:00 | 12:00 | 12:00 |

Finally, I am pleased to share the latest parent bulletin (click [here](#)) and to remind families that our school pantomime (we are aware that it's Easter!) will take place on Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st March 2022 at 5.30pm. Please click [here](#) for more information about the panto. I know the students and staff involved have been working incredibly hard and we look forward to welcoming families to what will be a fantastic community event.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher