

9 January 2018

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your families had an enjoyable Christmas break.

Congratulations to Liberty Barber (8T) who has recently attained her **Silver Merit Award** and Sophie Wyman (7S) who has attained her **Gold Merit Award**.

The **Y8 Options and Parents' Evening** is on Thursday 18 January, 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm. An appointments form was distributed prior to the Christmas break. A curriculum booklet outlining the various GCSE subject courses and choices will be distributed at the beginning of next week, and then at the meeting further information will be given about the structure of the middle school curriculum and subject choices put in context for certain careers. The talks start at 6.00 pm followed by appointments with individual staff beginning at 7.00 pm. Please note that pupils are encouraged to attend this meeting with you and must wear full school uniform. The final deadline for option choices is Friday 23 March.

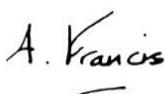
Y10 Parents' Evening takes place the following week on Monday 22 January and I have attached an appointments sheet to this letter; hard copies have been distributed to pupils today.

As you will be aware, internal examinations are taking place over the next week for Y7, Y9, Y11, Y12 and Y13. **Y11 will receive all of their results on Tuesday 30 January, pd 3**, rather than receiving them in subject lessons (as will happen for other year groups). We have found that doing this replicates the experience of results day more closely for Y11 and it is valuable to see their results all together. Staff will therefore not be returning or going through papers until after this date.

This term's areas for our **Whole School Literacy Focus** are on the second page of this letter. I hope it is helpful for you to be aware of these.

GCSE and A Level Examination Certificates are available for collection from the school office. Former students should arrange to collect them or email or forward a letter to school nominating a person to collect them on their behalf.

Best wishes



Miss A Francis
Headteacher

YoungMinds mission:

To improve the emotional resilience and mental health of children and young people throughout the UK by informing and actively engaging with children & young people, parents & carers, policymakers & professionals.

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CHARITY WEEK

This year's **Charity Week** starts on Monday 22 January. Each lunchtime that week, forms will be organising events to raise money. As you are already aware our chosen charity is 'YoungMinds' and in this morning's assembly Will Robinson (Community Fundraising Officer for Young Minds) spoke to us about the charity's work.



Whole School Literacy Focus: punctuation

Term 3 – commas

- **Commas** can be used to separate items in a list e.g. In my pencil case I have a pen, two pencils, a rubber, a ruler and a troll.
- **Commas** are also used to include extra information in sentences e.g. The cat, which was black and white, sat on the mat. If we take out the information between commas, the sentence will still make sense.
- **Commas** should also be used before certain connectives – for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so (FANBOYS) e.g. the ice cream was tasty, but I ate too much.
- **Commas** should also be used after certain longer connectives such as however and nevertheless.

Whole School Literacy Focus: easily confused words

Term 3 – practise / practice

- **Practise** is a verb meaning to do something repeatedly in order to become more skilful at it e.g. I will practise for my guitar recital". As a verb, it can take different endings e.g. he practises, we are practising, she practised.
- **Practice** is a noun meaning (1) use of a plan or method e.g. It works well in practice; (2) habit or custom e.g. It was his practice to work late on a Thursday; (3) repeated practice to develop a skill e.g. I must do my piano practice; (4) the work undertaken by a professional such as a doctor or lawyer or the building where this happens e.g. the doctors' practice was closed because of a water leak.

Parents Helpline

Our Parents Helpline offers honest, practical, trustworthy advice for any adult worried about a child or a young person under 25.



"13,000 people call our helpline every year including parents and carers, teachers, school nurses and social workers."

"I was at a point where I didn't know what to do anymore, I'd exhausted my abilities as a mum. But the Helpline picked me up — me and my family. They made me see that I wasn't going mad and that there was a way forward, we had a plan. I remember coming off the phone and thinking things would be good again and that I wasn't on my own any longer."

Mum of a 15 year old

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