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Headteacher Mrs Nicola Raggett GLCM (Hons)

12 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is wonderful to have your children back in school, we have had a very positive start to the new academic year. Thank you for your support in ensuring that uniform is meeting our expectations and that your children are arriving at school ready and enthusiastic to learn.

Following the death of Her Majesty the Queen last Thursday, all students showed great respect as I know they will do over the next couple of weeks and beyond as we celebrate her life.

The official date of the State Funeral is Monday 19th September 2022. This day will be a bank holiday and the DfE have advised schools to close on this day as a mark of respect. **School will not be open therefore on Monday 19th September**.

You may have seen our exam results on the website. Congratulations to Year 11 and 13 on their fantastic results. A-Level results were our best ever and well above national with 49.4% at A*- A and 75.3% at A*- B and an average grade of B+. Students have gone on to a range of destinations; university, 3 to Cambridge and many to sought after apprenticeships, including the BBC.

GCSE results again were excellent with grade 7+ at 41%, 5+ at 79% and 4+ at 88%.

Thursday mornings: On a Thursday morning, to accommodate staff training, lessons begin for students at 8:50am. Can I please ask you to ensure that students arrive at school between 8:35am and 8:45am and as near to 8:40am as possible. Students cannot access school until 8:40am and unfortunately we have received a couple of complaints from the public about a minority of students and the way in which they are waiting to enter school.

Can you please remind your child to:

- Wait sensibly and courteously, letting the public (often with small children) pass safely;
- Interact respectfully with the public, including the way in which they speak to them;
- Be aware of the language they are using.

Please remind them that while in uniform they are representing the school and should behave as if they are in school, therefore any student identified to be putting the schools' reputation into disrepute will be sanctioned according to the BFL policy.

COVID: In relation to COVID, the current guidance states that if a child or young person aged 18 or under tests positive for COVID-19, they should try and stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. This starts from the day after they did the test. If they are well and do not have a temperature after 3 days then there is a much lower risk that they will pass COVID-19 to others and we would suggest that they return to school at this stage. The full guidance can be found at:

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/#:~:text=You%20should%3A,had%20a%20COVID%2D19%20vaccine



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School calendar updates: On the reverse of this letter you will find a number of key dates for your diary, this includes early closure dates and INSET days for the coming year.

Please note that school will close early to all students on **Monday 26**th **September.** Students will leave school at **12.20 pm**; this is to ensure the school can prepare for our annual Open Evening event which will run from 5.00 - 8.00pm. The open evening is for students who will go into Year 7 and Sixth Form in September 2023. No booking is required for this event.

Student safety and parking: With 1062 students leaving school at the end of the day, it is even more important for all parents and carers to drive and park in line with legal requirements as we strive to keep the exit from school as safe as possible. Thank you to the majority of parents and carers who drive and park safely and courteously at the end of the day. For the few that do not, can I please remind you of the guidance from PC Tony Harris, Bournville Lane Police Station: The Highway Code

https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/parking.html section 243 states, do not stop or park:-

- Near a school entrance
- Anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- Opposite another parked vehicle
- Where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- In front of an entrance to a property

We kindly ask that you do not stop or park on the yellow lines, both zig zag and single lines, block our neighbours' driveways and carry out dangerous turning manoeuvres in the road. Please do not put our children at risk just because you wish to save a few seconds. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

N. Ragget

Mrs N Raggett Headteacher





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KEY DATES - Academic Year 2022-2023

The following confirms important dates during the school year when the school will either start late, finish early or close due to staff training. Also, I have included other key dates for your diary. *Please note the early closure on Monday 26th September to accommodate our main School Open Evening event.*

Early closure, late starts, training days and school closures							
	Day	Date	Event	Timing			
2022	Monday	19 th	State Funeral	Closed to staff and			
		September		students			
	Monday	26 th	Main school and Sixth Form Open Evening	Students finish at			
		September	(2023 entry)	12.20pm			
	Friday	25 th	INSET Training day	Closed to students			
		November					
2023	Wednesday	1 st February	INSET Training day	Closed to students			
	Monday	1 st May	Bank holiday	Closed to staff and			
				students			
	Friday	26 th May	INSET Training Day	Closed to students			
	Tuesday	25 th July	Last day of academic year	Students finish at			
				12.30pm			

	Day	Date	Event	Timing
2022	Monday	19 th	Y12 Parents as Partners Evening (online	5.00pm – 5.45 pm
		September	event)	
	Monday	26 th	School Open Evening (Year 7 & Sixth Form -	6.00pm – 8.00 pm
		September	2023 entry)	Students finish at
				12.20pm
	Tuesday	27 th	Open Morning (Year 7 & Sixth Form – 2023	*** 9.00am – 11.00am
		September	entry) - Online booking required	(online bookings only)
	Thursday	29 th	Y10 Parents as Partners Evening (online	6.00pm – 8.00 pm
		September	event)	
	Thursday	6 th October	Open Morning (Year 7 & Sixth Form – 2023	*** 9.00 – 11.00 am
			entry) - Online booking required	(online bookings only)
	Monday	10 th	Y7 Parents as Partners Evening	4.00pm – 6.00 pm
		October		
	Thursday	10 th	Y11 Parents Evening (online using School	3.30 – 6.00pm
		November	Cloud)	
	Thursday	24 th	Sixth Form Parents Evening (online using	3.30 – 6.00 pm
		November	School Cloud)	
	Tuesday	13 th	Christmas Concert	Time TBC
		December		





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2023	Thursday	12 th January	Y7 Parents Evening (online using School	3.30pm – 6.00pm
			Cloud)	
	Thursday	26 ^h January	Y10 Parents Evening (online using School	3.30pm – 6.00pm
			Cloud)	
	Tuesday	31 st January	Y8 Parents as Partners Evening for identified	Time TBC
			students	
	Tuesday	1 st March	Y9 Parents as Partners Evening	Time TBC
	Thursday	9 th March	Y9 Parents Evening (online using School	3.30pm – 6.00 pm
			Cloud)	
	Tuesday	21 st March	Y11 and Y13 Parents as Partners Evening for	Time TBC
			identified students	
	Thursday	30 th March	Y8 Parents Evening (online using School	3.30pm – 6.00 pm
			Cloud)	
	Monday	26 th June	Whole School Open Morning Y7 & Sixth	*** 9.00am – 11.00 am
			Form - 2023 entry	
	Tuesday	27 th June	Whole School Open Morning Y7 & Sixth	*** 9.00am – 11.00 am
			Form - 2023 entry	

*** Whole school open mornings do not affect timings of the school day, students should attend as normal

Please note timings may change, you will be informed if this is the case.

