



Year 8 End of Term Update

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of the academic year, we wanted to get in touch to update you after an action-packed Summer Term.

Sports Evening

On Thursday 6 July, we enjoyed our annual Sports Evening. Sports Evening is an eagerly anticipated event that brings together the entire school community to celebrate athleticism, teamwork, and healthy competition. It serves as a platform for students to showcase their sporting talents and engage in friendly rivalry.

There were many examples of camaraderie among students creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere. Standout performances came from Xander Gair who won the 100m and the triple jump. Harry Martin who won the shot-put and the long jump and William Davidson who won the high jump and the 400m.

We would like to congratulate and thank all pupils who put themselves forward to participate in Sports Evening. We also look forward to Newgate House competing for the first time next academic year.

Tommy's Award

Pupils in Year 8 completed their second year of participating in the Tommy's Award, there were over 30 successful participants. They were awarded with their badges and certificates in a whole school assembly on Wednesday 19 July. The Tommy's Award is unique to our school and recognises pupil achievements in areas which go beyond the classroom, such as leadership, service to the School, creativity and participation in extracurricular activities.

Celebration Day

On Tuesday 19 July, all pupils in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 had the opportunity to enjoy some team games on the school field. It was great to see each individual year group enjoying themselves and competing in teams against one another in a number of games. The highlights being football darts, inflatable basketball, and inflatable pony racing. From the smiles on all the boy's face we know they had a great time.

Mobile Phones

A brief reminder of the School mobile phone policy.

Mobile phones - must be switched off (not just on silent) and remain in a pupil's bag whilst on the School site. There may be times in the school day when a member of staff deems it acceptable to allow a pupil to use their phone, for example during a lesson, to photograph a piece of work, to access Satchel One, etc. Phones brought into school remain the sole responsibility of the pupil. If a mobile phone is seen or heard, then it will be confiscated. The School will decide whether the item is returned to the student or to the parent. Headphones may not be worn on the school site unless permission is given by a member of staff during the school day.

Social Media - Chat Apps

We appreciate the challenges that parents may face regarding social media usage. Although age restrictions are in place on multiple platforms which students wish to use to communicate, monitoring this can prove difficult for parents.

Students do use social media effectively to discuss homework, however, it also can be used in a less sensible manner.

Earlier this term Year 8 received an assembly focusing on Metropolitan police officers being charged over Whatsapp messages. Within the assembly they were asked to consider their own digital footprint on social media platforms and group chats. They were asked to consider two questions at the end of the assembly-

- If you found yourself in the same situation, are there messages in a chat you are in, even posted by yourself, which would be taken as seriously as this?

- What can you do to protect yourself?

With this in mind, we would encourage you to discuss with your child the importance of using group chats in a sensible way. Please read the following if you would like more advice and guidance-

[Chat apps | NSPCC](#)

Wellbeing

Whilst we hope that your son will enjoy the long summer break, we would like to remind you that support for their wellbeing remains available should it be required during the holidays. Please find below the contact details for TIC+ and the Young Minds Matter (YMM) team who will be available to offer confidential advice and support:

- TIC+ chat - www.ticplus.org.uk
- YMM chat - 07480 635723

Parental Support

Teens in Crisis (TIC+) would like to share information regarding free *Parent Support Groups* that are running for parents/carers of children between the ages of 11-18 within Gloucestershire.

The groups are designed to inform and support parents by giving guidance on how to understand their son or daughter's distress and discover effective strategies to improve their resilience. The group is also an opportunity for parents going through similar experiences to encourage, support and learn from each other in a safe and friendly environment.

Details of the upcoming support groups can be found below, although places are currently limited:

12 September – 17 October– 10.30am – 12.00pm – Stroud - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/638687289877>

14 September – 19 October– 1.00pm – 2.30pm - Gloucester - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/629196442497>

14 September – 19 October– 7.00pm – 8.30pm - Cheltenham - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/629177937147>

All details are also available on the TIC+ website:

<https://www.ticplus.org.uk/parents-carers/parent-carer-support-groups/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact TIC+ directly.

Last Day of Term and Coaches

It has become the tradition that on the last day of each full term, we finish School early. Below is a table outlining the day as well as the bus collection times.

8.30am – Registration

8.35am – Whole School Assembly

9.00am – 12.25pm - Normal lessons periods 1-3

12.30pm – Registration / Form Time

12.40pm – Pupils Depart

The information on bus departure times for Friday 21 July are also listed below:

12.45pm - IgoBus Whitminster [Denwells] / IgoBus Swindon [Denwells] / IgoBus Cirencester [Denwells]

12.55pm - Bennetts (DR 1 – DR 5)

12.55pm - Marchants 13 / Marchants 14

12.58pm - Bennetts (DR 6 – DR 9)

1.00pm - KB Coaches

September 2023

Looking ahead to September, a reminder that your son's first day of the Autumn term will be Thursday 7 September.

Your son's Head of Year next year will be Zak Hinds, supported by Mr Daniell (Assistant Headteacher i/c Key Stages 3 and 4) and Mr Lynch (Deputy Headteacher).

The form tutors for Year 9 in 2023-2024 are also listed below:

9S Mr Ormston – Q10 – (Northgate)

9T Mr Birkett and Mr Johnson – F4 – (Southgate)

9R Mrs Baker and Mr Tilley – F2 – (Eastgate)

9B Mr Hinton – Q5 – (Westgate)

9C Mr Emmerson – V7 – (Newgate)

Your son's timetable for next academic year will be issued on the first day in September, when it will also be available for you to view on Parent Gateway.

It just leaves us to say that we hope that you and your son have a relaxing, safe, and enjoyable summer holiday.

Best wishes

Mrs Chloe Rigby-Smith (Head of Year 8)

Mr Peter Daniell (Assistant Headteacher – Head of Key Stages 3 and 4)

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