



## From the Headmaster

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### **The School Day**

Public examinations start on 9 May, and from Monday 13 May to Friday 21 June we will move to our alternative school day. For these dates, Period 4 moves to after lunch so will be 1.15pm-2.15pm with lunchtime at 12.25pm-1.15pm. I know that having break and lunch closer together is not ideal for many pupils, but it means that students sitting public examinations in the main hall experience less noise and disruption. Unfortunately, the timings of external examinations are highly controlled.

### **Use of B Block Classrooms**

This year the B Block classrooms will be used in preference to E rooms for public examinations in a small room. If pupils normally have lessons in these rooms, they may be asked to change rooms for some lessons during the period of the public examinations.

### **Roads**

If you pick up your son or daughter from school, a gentle reminder to park safely and legally, and not to park across driveways and dropped kerbs, even if you are only there for a few minutes. Our reception team fields angry emails and calls far more regularly than I would like – which is unpleasant for both our staff and for those contacting us – so your consideration in this matter is much appreciated.

### **Emergency Lockdown Procedures**

I am sure you will be aware of the concerning incident this week in a school in Southwest Wales, where two teachers and a teenage pupil at Ysgol Dyffryn Aman, in Ammanford, were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening stab wounds inflicted by another pupil. Such incidents are, thankfully, extremely rare in the UK, and all schools have lockdown procedures, which take place in the event of an incident. Our last emergency lockdown practice took place in December 2023, in order to familiarise students and staff with the procedures to follow should the lockdown alarm sound; I was impressed at how all staff and students responded, and at how seriously and maturely students approached the practice. We keep our emergency procedures under constant review.

### **Mentoring Programme**

Year 7 pupils met with their Year 13 mentors for a final time this week, taking the opportunity to wish them well in their final examinations. My thanks go to all the Year 13 students who have mentored Year 7 pupils this year with such good humour and kindness. Their support and hard work have helped younger pupils settle into school life and study.

### **Open Days**

It was wonderful to welcome so many prospective pupils and their parents to the school for our Year 7 Open Days this week, if somewhat personally a little strange as Matthew Lynch gave the talks. As ever, the Year 8 pupils who conducted guided tours of the School proved to be the very best advocates for Sir Thomas Rich's; they were engaging, articulate – and of course, brutally honest! – I am most grateful for their efforts.

With very best wishes for the weekend

Matthew Morgan

HEADMASTER

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