

11 February 2022

Dear parents and carers,

We have managed to pack a lot in to what has been a very short term since our return at the start of 2022.

Year 11 and 13 students have been incredible in their mature and measured approach to their PPE exams, and should be very proud of themselves. Both year groups also had the opportunity, following the completion of their mock exams, to participate in an off-curriculum day enabling them to reflect upon and develop strategies to manage the anxiety that is a natural part of the exams and assessment experience. I would like to thank Mrs Wehrle for arranging these days, it is so important that students remember to prioritise self-care alongside revision.

We also saw the very best of our Year 13 students in their EPQ presentation event, where students shared the fruits of their research labour, having selected an individual research project that is important to them. We had topics ranging from cybersecurity and quantum computing, the extent to which women achieved equality after the Chinese cultural revolution to the reason girls are underrepresented in ADHD statistics. It is such a privilege to be able to see and hear the amazing journeys research has taken our students on, and the extent to which it prepares them for their next steps. I would like to say huge congratulations and well done to all of the Year 13 students who participated this year, and a big thank you to Ms Butler and her team of supervisors for creating the thinking space and support which allowed their ideas to flourish.

Year 9 students have been selecting their subject choices for GCSEs, the two-year courses starting in September next year. This is the first time they have had the opportunity to specialise and focus on the areas of study that are most relevant to them. We are now busy putting together the timetable based on these, and the choices Year 11 made before Christmas, ready for next year.

Our building project at Tonbridge is coming along, the piling has been completed and we will start to see the building take shape over the coming months. This will provide us with three new classrooms in time for the new academic year. Students at Sevenoaks will soon see the initial phases of the construction of the sixth form common room space, off the back of the current building. A big thank you to the Year 11 students from Sevenoaks who have been sharing their design ideas for their new space.

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 22 February, after the additional day off on Monday in recognition of the Queen's Jubilee this year. Could we remind you to ensure students complete a lateral flow test on Monday evening before the return to school. In the meantime, I do hope you have a restful break and thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



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