



**Friday 29th April 2022**

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to your first letter of updates for the summer term. We have a short but busy half term ahead of us, and have really enjoyed seeing our students back in school this week ready and raring to go!

### **Quick Read**

- Students in Y7-10 and the sixth form were visited by speakers from the School of Sexuality Education on Tuesday to support our relationships, sex and health education curriculum.
- Look out for a letter next week from Mr Burns, Assistant Headteacher, explaining how we will communicate ambition points during the summer term whilst our parent communication system changes.
- Y13 have started form time challenges to prepare them for their next steps, including cooking, ironing and budgeting!
- Y13 students need to be aware of the deadline for applying for student finance: 20th May.
- Y12 are going on a UCAS Discovery Day next week and must print off their ticket beforehand.
- There are some new resources on the 'wellbeing' section of our website to support people affected by self harm.
- Thanks to investment from the PTA and the school, our Learning Support Centre, used by vulnerable students, has been given a facelift over Easter.
- The Warhammer club went on a trip just before Easter!
- We are supporting Homes for Ukraine by offering school places to children arriving with local families who apply via the local authority.

### **The School of Sexuality Education**

On Tuesday 26th April we were visited by two speakers from The School of Sexuality Education who delivered age-appropriate workshops to students in years 7-10 and the sixth form. The workshops were informative, engaging, thought-provoking and relevant and we were really impressed with the way in which the speakers dealt with some quite challenging topics.

Our students - your children - were a credit to themselves, to the school and to you on the day. The speakers commented on their maturity, their thirst for knowledge and the high quality of their questions. Thank you for helping us to prepare them for this day.





### **Achievement and behaviour communication**

As you are aware, we are moving away from the SIMS parent app to using Class Charts from September. We are conscious that you, as parents and carers, have temporarily lost that vital information stream around positive recognition and negative behaviours. Mr Burns, Assistant Headteacher, leads in this area and will be writing to you early next week to explain how we are going to ensure you still have regular communication around ambition points and negative behaviour in school whilst we go through this transition.

### **Y13 'challenges'**

Our Y13 students started the first of their challenges this week in form time aimed at getting them ready for living on their own at university. Each week they will take on a different task including budgeting, cooking a cheap yet healthy meal, and even ironing!

### **Y13 student finance applications**

The deadline for completing student finance applications to ensure everything is in place before the term starts is 20th May. It is possible to apply after this, but students should try and meet this deadline to ensure there are no issues. The students have had an assembly focused on student loans, how to apply and how it is paid back.

### **Y12 UCAS Discovery Day**

Next Wednesday, our Y12 students will attend a UCAS discovery day at Teesside University. Details of the event have been sent in a separate letter this week. The students have been sent an invite to register, and must have their own individual ticket either printed or downloaded before the event. Please can you encourage them to do this before the visit next week.

### **Parent support information in our 'wellbeing' section of the website**

Self harm is an issue which has impacted on many young people and their families and, sadly, schools have seen a rise in instances of self harm following the Covid-19 pandemic. We understand that it can be difficult to know how to support your child if they are self harming and that it can have an impact on all members of the family.

In the 'mental health and wellbeing' section of our website, we have uploaded some new resources for parents in relation to self harm. We are also pleased to include a training video for parents created by the Wellbeing in Mind team.

We thank our Wellbeing in Mind team colleagues for these excellent resources.





## Refurbishment of the Learning Support Centre

Over the Easter holidays, the Learning Support Centre has benefitted from a facelift. We are so happy to be able to welcome our students back into our smart new environment and thank the PTA for their contribution which has enabled us to purchase new furniture to complement the new paint and carpet.

## Warhammer trip

Mrs Metcalfe's extra-curricular Warhammer club visited Games Workshop in Middlesbrough before Easter to gain some experience from the professionals. They were taught how to play Warhammer 40K by the manager Percy and started their Battle Honours program to enable them to explore the hobby further and earn some amazing rewards at the same time! The club runs every Monday lunchtime and new members are always welcome to come and paint, play or both!



## Homes for Ukraine

We are supporting families who are offering homes to Ukrainian refugees by offering young people a place to learn. Our first children will join us over the coming weeks and if any families can support with interpretation or anything else, please do get in touch.

## Dates for your diary

Monday 2 May	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 4 May	Y12 UCAS Discovery Day
Week commencing 16 May	KS4 and KS5 exams begin
	Y11 and Y13 PRP3 reports sent home
Friday 13th May	Y7 visit from the RNLI
Monday 16/ Tuesday 17 May	Y12 Geography Residential Trip

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Yours faithfully,

**Mrs H. L. Millett**  
Headteacher

