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@KEVICC

Principal Alan Salt

27 June 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope this update finds you well. It was great to see so many of you supporting our students last Wednesday at the "Jukebox" Music Festival, and as we move into the last part of the academic year, we are hoping to be able to use the good weather (fingers crossed) to good effect on both Sports Day (13 July) welcoming our new Year 7 students (and their parents and carers) and also celebrating the end of the year with students and their families nominated for recognition at our Achievement Evening on 10 July.

Alongside all of this, we are busily trying to finish teaching the curriculum to make sure Y7-12 students are all in the very best place to start again in September and planning out the year ahead. Over the past year, and into the next, we have really benefited from working together and with colleagues from our partner schools to ensure we are planning and delivering great teaching over a wide range of subjects.

Industrial Action Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July

As if school wasn't busy enough, I am afraid we also have disruption ahead from further planned industrial action by the NEU. This is a continuation of the dispute earlier this year. In April, all teaching education unions rejected the government's offer. Currently, all these unions are balloting for further industrial action in Autumn of this year. This includes, for the first time in its 150-year history, the Association of School and College Leaders, which represents the majority of secondary headteachers in England.

As ever, it is hugely frustrating this dispute has not been resolved, as it leaves schools and parents and carers with the task of trying to manage disruption.

This means we are only able to open the school to a limited number of students on these days. We are continuing to focus on groups facing public exams soon and our youngest students. Therefore, we will only be opening on these days for:

Year 7
Year 10
Year 12

Again, we are very aware of and sorry for the disruption this causes, but we feel it is as ever the least worst option we have.

If possible, we will offer places to both our **vulnerable students** and those **students with critical worker parents or carers in Year 8 and Year 9**.

If you are a parent or carer with a student in Year 8 or Year 9 to whom the above applies, and you wish to request a place for next Wednesday and/or Friday, please use the link or QR code below to complete a short form no later than **3pm on Monday 3 July**



<https://forms.office.com/e/KhPNudTrpc>

Following on from the last update, we are pleased that we can again use our Elmhirst sports facilities following the traveller families who had stopped on Elmhirst moving on.

Our primary concern is always safeguarding our students, and having unauthorised visitors on a school site meant we could not use our sports facilities whilst they were there. There is also a considerable cost to enforcement measures we put in place to ensure the stay was temporary, and this has to be met by the school. The wider issue of the local authority's responsibility to provide sites for the travelling community is one we are aware of and have been in touch with South Hams council about. Thank you for your patience and understanding whilst this has been resolved.

I am acutely aware as the year marches on that opportunities to chat to parents and carers and listen to your views are ever more precious, and fleeting! As such, I have scheduled one of our usual Q and A sessions for Monday 3 July 5pm to 6pm. You can join online via Teams using the link below. Come along to ask questions, give feedback and let us know your thoughts. These sessions are always informal, and no matter how many (or few) make it along, they do give us real insight and important feedback.

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTk3OTE4MjgtNDdiMC00YjBILThmM2QtNmY4ZDM0ZmY5ZWQx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220c36f116-41e2-4d31-a0d6-699ae4627098%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2247d021a7-f7f8-4ca4-b37f-980e42bca45d%22%7d

As ever, thank you for all you do to support your young person and the College.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Salt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Salt