

May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Summer Term

As we are now in the summer term, I thought I would write to you with an update on the experiences, events and opportunities that Year 8 have been having, and will have towards the end of this year.

You will be pleased to hear that, as a year group, they are continuing to build on the good reputation they already had. Teachers enjoy teaching them and I often hear staff commenting on how supportive Year 8 students are of each other and of how they strive for success in the classroom. The fact that they have earned over 12,000 credits so far this year is clear evidence that they are indeed a year group that I and the school can be proud of.

One of the most noticeable achievements of Year 8 so far this year is how they have embraced and been successful in their roles as student receptionists. The students have been developing their skills and relationships with staff, meeting and greeting visitors to the school, running messages to teachers etc. They have done this politely, efficiently and with maturity. It has been a pleasure to see them in this role.

Also this term, some of you will be aware, there has been a focus on improving attendance across the school. I am sure you will agree that a student's attendance has a direct impact on the academic and social achievements of young people. For example, if a student's attendance is consistently around 90% over the five years of secondary education, which may seem high, that student will miss around half a year of their education and this will clearly put that student at a disadvantage. I am proud to say that over 140 students were rewarded for their excellent attendance with a film afternoon recently and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have been so supportive with this important aspect of school life. As a result of your support, Year 8 is now the year group with the highest attendance in the school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the tutor time routine that Year 8 follow.

Monday

Tutors check planners to ensure there are no issues with homework and tutors check that students have the correct equipment. Please can you continue to support your child's learning by checking and signing the planner each weekend and ensuring that they have the correct equipment to learn. Remember, you can also use the planner as another way of communicating with staff.

Tuesday

Tutor groups celebrate the successes of the previous week. Awards are given to those who achieved credits and those who excel in effort or achievement are recognised. Tutors also address any behaviour points that students earn for not meeting the high expectations we have here at The Blue.

Thursday

Students study PSHE. The most recent sessions this year have been on growth mindset and careers.

Friday

Students are able to work in teams in a weekly quiz. Tutors also take time to check attendance, punctuality and behaviour.

In addition to this routine, in tutor time, Year 8 students regularly have their uniform checked and I would again like to thank those of you who have been supportive in ensuring the high standards that are set by Year 8 with regards to this. Please remember that all Year 8 students will need to be in the new uniform by the beginning of Year 9 in September.

Looking forward, Year 8 have a busy few weeks leading up to the summer holidays. Sports Day is fast approaching and we would like as many of the year group to take part as possible. The penultimate week of term, starting on the 8th July, is Enrichment Week and I know from my conversations with students and parents/carers that Year 8 are looking forward to it. Finally, on 4th July, Year 8

will be off timetable all day in their tutor groups for World of Work Day. This will be an exciting opportunity for them to work together to launch a business in a 'Dragons' Den' scenario while working with representatives from local businesses.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope that you will find the key dates below useful.

Term 6 begins – Monday 3rd June

Sports Day – Wednesday 12th June

Year 8 Quantocks Geography Trip – 17th-21st June

Charity non-uniform day – Thursday 27th June

Enrichment week – 8th – 12th July

Term 6 ends – Friday 19th July



Mr Bilkey
Pastoral Team Leader Year 8