

27th September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Last night we hosted our annual Open Evening. We were delighted to welcome over 500 families to see our school from our local community and beyond. As always the school looked and felt fantastic. Our student leaders and ambassadors who spoke to parents and led on tours were exceptional and a real credit to the school and your families.

Attendance

Attendance year to date = 93.9% Persistent Absence year to date = 17.8 % [less than 90%]			Lates = 3.2%
Year 7	96.2%	11.3%	1.3%
Year 8	93.6%	17.2%	2.6%
Year 9	93.3%	20.7%	4.0%
Year 10	93.1%	20.9%	3.7%
Year 11	93.0%	20.8%	4.8%

Wet weather

For the past few weeks we have all experienced very challenging weather conditions. Our students have been really responsible especially during wet breaks and lunches. Please can you remind students to bring appropriate wet weather coats as a number of students have arrived soaking wet at the start of the day. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is on site for 8.15am and ready for their day ahead.

Assemblies this week

The house assemblies this week delivered by Mrs Strett were around what a rights respecting school looks like, sounds like and feels like. Students were reminded of the importance of their right to an education and what they need to do to enjoy this right. Students were also reminded to respect the rights of others to learn.

Mr Russell delivered the assembly on Wednesday and was incredibly impressed with how students entered and exited the main hall and their appreciation of the important messages being delivered, we look forward to seeing how many students donate food or cash to Swindon Food Collective.

Student voice - school council



As a rights respecting school student voice is incredibly important to us. There are a number of ways that students can share their voice with us. One of these is our year and school councils. Over the last week or so all tutor groups have been electing their two representatives who will join the year councils next week and share the issues that the tutor group want to raise. These councils are led by some of our senior student leaders.



One of the agenda items on the year council will be to elect representatives to join the school council. Which will sit in the coming weeks.

Once the school council has sat our head of school council Josh and head students Daisy and Alex will attend a SLT meeting to feedback student views. SLT will put many of these actions into place and will then give feedback to all students about what has been achieved through student voice. Members of the councils will also be asked when student voice is sought in a variety of ways to discuss teaching and learning, enrichment, attitudes and engagement and school culture. There are, however, further opportunities for students' voices to be heard through different focus groups such as the Rights Respecting Steering group, charity group, eco-group and champions of change.

If students don't feel comfortable to speak out personally then they can always use SHARPS if there is some concern about themselves. If there is an issue they want to raise or anything else they want to share they can access the student voice email.

Please do encourage your child to engage and have their voice heard, it is one of their rights and is really important to us.

PE bottoms

Last year, we consulted with you around PE uniform. We looked at students coming into school in their full school uniform everyday and changing into their PE uniform in school when they had PE. We listened to your voice and decided to continue with students coming into school wearing their PE uniform on days when they had PE- with the expectation that students would wear their PE uniform in line with expectations, as they would their school uniform. A number of students are choosing to wear 'joggers' as their PE bottoms. These are not appropriate and are not in line with the uniform policy. Students who choose to come to school in the incorrect uniform, will need to borrow the correct uniform from student services. They will need to hand over their phone to ensure that the uniform is returned at the end of the day. Please can you ensure that your child is wearing plain black tracksuit bottoms. Examples can be found on the website.

Year 7 CAT4 testing

All Y7 students will complete online CAT4 tests on Friday 4th October during tutor time, P1 and 2. The tests measure verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning skills and give us additional data to consolidate KS2 scores and ascertain KS3 starting points. No prior revision is required but please can we ask parents and carers of year 7 students to remind your child to ensure **their chromebook is sufficiently charged before coming into school and that they bring their headphones in** as these will be required for the test sitting.

Future Events

- 3rd October - Y10 Information Evening 5.30 - 6.30pm
- 18th October - ASC Coffee Afternoon 1.45 - 2.45pm
- 24th Oct - 1st Nov - Half Term

With our continued thanks. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any further information.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher