

Dear Parent & Student,



There is much going on at present for our young people. Firstly, I want to congratulate all those who have been auditioning for our forthcoming **'Talent Showcase Evening'**. They really have been doing themselves proud and, although it may not be possible to have every single act included in the final programme, the fact that students have shared their talents and are developing their confidence is excellent and we look forward to seeing all publicly perform in the near future. Please keep the date free - **Tuesday 27 March 2018 - 6:30 - 9:00 pm**. There will be more information forthcoming about this and how to secure tickets very soon.

In terms of performance, our **GCSE Drama students** have an 'in-house' public performance on Wednesday as part of their final preparations for their GCSE assessment in front of the examiner. We wish them well and look forward to their final rehearsal on Wednesday.

There is much activity at present for all our public examinations students. All must be engaged in revision. The **final PPEs** will be commencing on 5th March and students really must give of their best in these examinations. No public examination student should be spending less than 2 hours an evening on school work and all should be availing of the extra support opportunities in school, in addition to work being covered in lessons.

Our **Year 8** students attended their **Reporting Evening** on Thursday and I was pleased to see much positive engagement in planning the future and next steps. **GCSE Pathways'** Options will be taking place post Easter but now is the time to be thinking of 'what next'. Ms Hallett and the Tutor Teams are pursuing work with students on this focus and any queries/questions from parents are welcome.

On **Thursday 1st March** we hold our second **Year 7 Reporting Evening**. All families should now be aware of their allocated time slot. Attendance from all is expected unless there exists an exceptional reason. Please advise us in advance if this is the case. We are looking forward to engaging with Year 7 students and their parents on Thursday.

Looking to next week, we are aware that the **weather is set to get colder** and that snow may be a reality. I therefore want to remind you of two things.

1. Uniform standards are not to be compromised. Inclement weather does not permit wearing of hoodies. We urge all young students to travel to school wearing a sensible warm overcoat.
2. In terms of **extreme weather conditions**, it is rare in our area for major disruption to result from bad weather, such as excess snow and ice. It would only be in the most extreme of circumstances that we would need to close school. If the site was unsafe or, due to travel problems, we did not have a safe level of staffing, then a decision may have to result to close school. Such situations can occur with very little advance warning and therefore it is important that our young people have a key to access their homes if they needed to return home from school at an irregular time of day. If health and safety considerations necessitate this, then, we would take every reasonable step to communicate. Information would be shared via all means possible at that time ie

- on the school's web site
- via text messages
- via email



It is also therefore vital that our records are accurate when it comes to contact numbers and email addresses. If you have changed your contact numbers/addresses, please let our school administration team know as soon as possible.

Hopefully there will be no necessity for anything other than 'business in school as usual' but being prepared is always wise! Please also note the letter I sent prior to Christmas on this matter.

Very best wishes for a great week ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Kathleen M. Higgins" in a cursive script.

Kathleen M. Higgins
Executive Headteacher