

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today it was our privilege to host our Scholars' Experience Day. The shortlisted pupils from Year 6 and Year 8 took part in interviews, art and academic examinations, fitness tests and some did presentations depending on which scholarship they had applied for. The day, regardless of the outcome, allowed them to meet new people, showcase their talents, experience and improve their interview skills and hear a short address from Mr Watson, Principal of the Trust, on what makes an excellent scholar. The pupils were a pleasure to spend time with and all conducted themselves superbly.

May I draw your attention to Holocaust Memorial Day tomorrow. An important time to remember the millions of people who have been killed during that time and other genocides since. The theme this year is Fragility of Freedom which we discussed and shared with the Senior School Pupils in assembly this week. To mark this day, we ask that you light a candle at 8pm on Saturday, an act that will be replicated across the country.

In staffing news, I am delighted to share with you that we have appointed Mrs Ruth Smith, to replace Mrs Karen Carter, as the new member of our Teaching Assistant team. Mrs Smith knows the school and pupils very well and, alongside her cheery personality, will bring many high qualities to the team. We will of course now be recruiting to replace her position on the admin team which we will do as soon as possible.

Please can I draw your attention to some important notices from our nursing team (see below).

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

With my best wishes,  
Mrs McCullough  
Headmistress

### **Is my child too ill for school?**

This is the season when we experience an increase in coughs, colds and other common childhood illnesses, and we appreciate that it can be difficult to decide whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell. The links below provide government guidance and information about when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If your child requires over-the-counter medications to manage a high temperature, or other symptoms associated with common colds and infections, it is recommended that your child should be kept at home and allowed the opportunity to recover from their illness. Please avoid administering over-the-counter medications prior to your child coming to school as these can often mask the symptoms of illness.

It is also very important to note that if your child has had an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting, they must stay at home until they have not vomited or had diarrhoea for a minimum period of 48 hours.

We appreciate your understanding and support of our endeavours to reduce the circulation of common childhood infections within our school community.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z>

### **Measles**

You may be aware of recent reports by GOV.UK about the rising cases of measles across England, in both children and adults. Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and for some people can cause serious problems.

There is no specific medical treatment for measles, so it's important to get vaccinated as it is the best protection against the virus. The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is one of the routine childhood vaccinations, so most children are already vaccinated against measles. Two doses are needed for full protection against measles and measles immunity usually lasts a lifetime.

The link below provides information about what to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/22/what-to-do-if-you-think-your-child-has-measles-and-when-to-keep-them-off-school>

### **Reminders:**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January

Year 9 Individual Career Meetings (all week)

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Year 11 Animal Care Pupils to Stoughton Grange Farm – 10.45am