



# THE ARCHBISHOP'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY

## Headteacher Newsletter Term 4

Dear Parents/Carers

As we enter the cold and wet winter months, I am reminded of our topic for Worship this term which has been perseverance. Having perseverance when things get tough and when everything is against you. Having perseverance to battle against all odds and when a task seems impossible, to continue earnestly on. Perseverance continues to be needed as we travel through this grey and stormy winter period and await the new birth of spring around the corner. As exam season is approaching, with many students sitting mock exams on their return, perseverance is needed as they work determinedly and put their minds to the hard work ahead.

This term has seen an Ofsted inspection for the school, often one of the most challenging experiences a school can go through and for which perseverance is definitely required. Instead of a negative experience, I am proud to say we instead saw a staff, student and parent body coming together in unity. I am very proud of everyone who helps make this school a positive learning environment for our students.

### Key Dates

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Year 8 Parent's Evening

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Year 9 Parent's Evening

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Year 8 History trip to Penshurst Place

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Year 7 Parent's Evening

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Y10 trip to Microsoft Centre (London)

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Senior Prize Giving

### Farewells and Recruitment

It is with sadness that we wish farewell to Mrs Lewis. We wish her well for the future and thank her for all of the hard work and care she has not only put in to her food technology lessons, but furthermore in to the young people she has supported.

### School Accomplishments and Trips

Term 3 has been a busy one with plans well underway for the forthcoming school Ski Trip and Year 8 trip to Rockley, France in May. I know that these extracurricular opportunities give such wealth of experience and opportunity to our students and are often those moments in their schooling that they look back on most fondly- so I thank the staff who put in the effort to plan and attend these trips.

I want to also acknowledge an exceptional effort which was made on the 25<sup>th</sup> January by a group of KS4 students who came together representing the schools PIXL Build Up group, to set up a pop up restaurant in the school hall named 'Restaurant 58'. This project overseen by Chef Mark Lloyd as part of the school diners' project saw students cook, plate and serve a three course meal to 105 guests. The young people were told that they could choose what they did with the profits and it is a great testament to the character of our students that they chose to donate it all to Pilgrims Hospice. Guests at the restaurant were asked to pay what they thought the food was worth and the students also held a raffle. The evening was a huge success with delicious food served to all. The students were delighted to raise a spectacular £2150 for Pilgrims Hospice and would like to thank everyone who came along to support them, bought raffle tickets, or donated prizes.



## Website

I hope you have already visited the school's new website [www.archbishops-school.co.uk](http://www.archbishops-school.co.uk). If you haven't, please take a moment to visit the site and begin to navigate the information we are uploading on to this. This is becoming well used and in the coming month's information relating to homework, calendar and wider school events can be found through this portal.

## Parent/Carer Forum

Many thanks to all parents/carers who attended the most recent forum on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 7.00pm. The forum was a proactive and supportive environment and allowed senior staff to hear directly from parents, as we work together to implement changes and set priorities. The forum was highly productive and gave lots of food for thought to the senior staff who attended. We wish to thank all those who made the time to join us and extend the welcome to others to join us for future meetings.

## Calendar Changes

A polite reminder that the school has an inset day on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**. The school will be closed to students, as the staff have a day of training: focusing on strategies to support boys in all aspects of their academic and social development. I hope you can agree that this is an important topic and one which school staff are looking forward to learning and reflecting on. Please can you ensure that you are aware of the school's closure to all students on this date and provision is made for your child.

## Parent communication and app

We are continuing in our quest to bring the Archbishops School in to the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the addition of new technology to help improve communication and I am happy to say that we are moving forward with this. A pilot group are currently trialling an app and helping us navigate any potential issues before this is rolled out to the whole school. We hope to be able to launch some of this new technology soon.

## Uniform

Many thanks to all parents/carers who have helped in our drive to improve standards in terms of uniform. As a school, we feel passionately that the manner in which students conduct themselves is highly important and that uniform is an important part of this. Through dressing smartly we hope students are able to act in a more professional manner and take pride in their own appearance and have pride in their school. A recent year group focus has been undertaken with heads of year reviewing uniform with their students and ensuring that parents are contacted should persistent uniform issues continue. We have seen a significant reduction in the reports of incorrect uniform and hope that we can continue this push in to next term. A polite reminder that **no trainers or hoodies are to be worn in school (apart from BTEC KS4 Hoodies)** and that students with incorrect uniform will find themselves sanctioned. If you are struggling financially with the demands of purchasing uniform, please contact the school where support will be provided. We want all of our students to come to school appropriately dressed and with the resources they need to learn effectively, so please do contact the school if you are experiencing any financial hardship at this time.

## **Year 11**

Many thanks to the stoic effort of Mrs Brady and the team of Year 11 tutors and teachers as Year 11 students are beginning to prepare for the critical time of their GCSE examinations. With mocks around the corner I know many students are beginning to feel the pressure, but the staff have been amazing at providing support and guidance. Year 11 revision week has been a big success, with information being shared with parents and students about how to revise and a specific revision focus seen in lessons. I hope that any parents of Year 11 students have seen a noticeable difference in their child's efforts regarding revision and that many have been asking for highlighters, post its and cue cards for their revision over the half term break. KS4 teachers continue to run a range of interventions and revision sessions within the school day and after school and I know these have been well attended. I hope the students continue to find these useful as we drive towards the goal of their summer exams.

## **Year 9 Options Evening and Taster Days**

In January, Year 9 had a first-hand experience of their potential GCSE subjects through a range of 'Taster Lessons' put on by our KS4 teachers that have been well received. We hope that giving students as much information as possible about each subject and what it entails, students will be fully informed and able to select the best set of subjects for them. With GCSE and BTEC options available and more information being provided to parents/carers through an options booklet and options evening we hope that moving in to KS4, students will feel prepared for the studies that lie ahead.

## **Homework timetable and information on the website**

As a school we have been working closely with parents and students to get a suitable balance regarding homework. We appreciate that up until this point the amount of homework has been inconsistent and we hope to rectify this moving forward. Previously the school undertook homework 'projects' that were accessed through the school drive and these had mixed results, with some students enjoying the more open and creative projects while others reported that they were often unlinked to the core lesson material. Moving forward more clarity will be provided regarding a homework timetable and homework shared on the school website. We are also ensuring as much as possible that subject resources and websites that can be accessed as a home study resource are shared with students and parents. Educake, a KS4 science resource and MathsWhizz a KS3 maths resource are two examples of online portals already used.

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I hope everyone has a restful half term break and that we can return rested and rejuvenated. As storm winds and rains crash outside my window I am reminded of the following verse:

*Psalm 107:28-31 'Yet when they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, the Lord brought them out of their distress. He calmed the storm and its waves quieted down. So they rejoiced that the waves became quiet, and he led them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his gracious love and for his awesome deeds on behalf of mankind.'*

God bless

Mr D. Elliott, Headteacher