



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

AMBITION – CONFIDENCE – CREATIVITY – RESPECT – DETERMINATION



22 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the last day of this term, I would like to thank you for the support that you have shown the school over the last seven weeks. The end of a term is a good time to reflect on what has been achieved, and a time to look forward to what is coming up.

During this term we have been delighted to return to normal schooling and it has been brilliant to see students enjoying their academic and character experiences. We have introduced new subjects to our curriculum and new societies and academies to our Character Education offer. The commitment and enthusiasm shown by all those benefiting from this broad offer has given us confidence that we are in a good place moving forwards.

Some particular highlights of this term have been the introduction of our orchestra in Year 8, it is so good to see the development of students in such a short space of time - clarinets, trumpets and violins have never sounded so good! We have also been delighted to see the return of inter-school fixtures and although it took us a while to see any victories we were really pleased to dominate Gloucester Academy and Newent in recent fixtures. Our Year 7s excelled in their FA Cup Round 2 match securing a very fine 8-1 victory.

Whilst all of the additional curricular activities are important we mustn't forget that the academic side is crucial too. Students have really been engaged in their studies and many visitors have reported that the commitment of students and the expertise of our teaching staff is putting us in a place where we can truly be called a world-class school.

Over the last four weeks we have been proud to show off our school to prospective parents. Many of the tours have been conducted by students, and again those that have benefited have remarked how excitedly the students talk about their school and how well they represent the school community.

Some of the key aims of the Autumn term are to look forward, and challenge ourselves to make improvements where necessary. Staff have spent time developing our improvement plan. Whilst much centres around teaching and learning, there is a recognition that after 18 months of keeping people out of the school due to Covid restrictions we must work hard to engage with our local community and parents of students who attend or may choose to attend in the future. During the last couple of weeks we have hosted our Year 11 Parents Information evening and a Careers Fair, these have shown that we can host events safely. Parental engagement is a good indicator of future success so we are now asking for your commitment in supporting the future of this school and your students by getting involved in future Parents Evenings and events as they happen over the next few terms.

Attendance is a key aspect of our improvement plan and we would ask you to continue to support our drive by ensuring that students are in school on time, and refraining from booking holidays during term times. Our policy is that we choose not to authorise holidays during term time, this is because we believe that students learn best in front of an expert teacher and any absence can disrupt the learning of that child and their peers. Whilst we understand that each person will have a reason for their request, it would be unfair for us to authorise one without authorising all.

#BEMOREFIVE

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School of
CHARACTER

When we return after the October half term, we would like to remind everyone of the precautions they can take to keep the school community safe, and this includes taking regular LFD tests, feeling able to wear a face mask in communal areas if you wish to and regularly washing and sanitising hands. The advice to isolate and request a PCR test if your child develops symptoms of Covid-19 still stands.

Communication has recently been sent to parents regarding PPE and assessments for all year groups, which will be sat from the middle of November onwards. These assessments give us an opportunity to look at students' progress, and we you will receive further communication about their progress towards the end of this next term. We look forward to celebrating the successes that students will undoubtedly achieve, and wish them well in their preparations.

Investment in the school also continues at pace, we hope that students have enjoyed the additional outdoor equipment for break times, improved signage and benefits from the solar panel installation. Our next investment will be in our catering payment system, which we are upgrading over half term and hoping to introduce from 1 November. This will continue to be linked to your child's ParentPay account, so you should not experience any disruption.

Over the holidays there is always a question around completion of work. We have once again reiterated to students that any work they complete is beneficial but that all compulsory homework elements such as Bedrock, Sparx and Seneca will be checked at the normal times, giving plenty of time for this work to be completed at the regular times without interference to holiday plans. Discretionary effort is never wasted, all learning is valuable.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the staff, students and parents for all of their efforts in what has been an incredibly tough term. Returning to normality was never going to be easy, but each and every person has played their part in helping us to navigate the term and leave me with a sense of pride in what has been achieved. There is always so much going on that we cannot fully communicate to you, but I hope that you understand what a brilliant school we have in our community and I look forward to celebrating with you more of what we achieve over the coming weeks and months. Please continue to keep up to date with our daily life by viewing our social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Have a fantastic break.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Phelps' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Phelps
Headteacher