

9th May 2025

Dear Families

I hope that you all enjoyed the long Bank Holiday weekend. Thank goodness it has started to warm up again. We started the day on Tuesday with an examinations inspection by JCQ, the exams regulator. We passed everything with flying colours, and they were impressed by our examination provision. I am grateful to all involved for managing the process so well each year. This week Year 9 students have enjoyed a retreat to Kintbury. Other students in Year 9 had the opportunity to go on university visits on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Wednesday afternoon, Year 11 had their celebration assembly and enjoyed their assembly and shirt signing. After school on Wednesday, we hosted a Primary Engineers training event for our primary schools' teachers. They created a marble run! On Wednesday evening we held the Year 13 Mass of Celebration. It was such a lovely occasion. On Thursday morning Student Leaders attended a 'Raising of the VE Day 80th Anniversary Flag' ceremony at Milton Keynes City Council's offices. After the ceremony, the students joined the public and special guests to mingle and for refreshments. Several students spoke with different veterans, the Mayor, and the Countess Howe who graciously took a picture with the students. The atmosphere was very positive and lively and the students said that "It was amazing to talk to different people in all different high ranking positions in the Milton Keynes community." On Thursday afternoon, Year 13 enjoyed their leavers assembly and BBQ. Year 11 begin their study leave today, but parents should be aware that there are bespoke study leave arrangements for some students, and they would have received letters regarding this if applicable.

On Thursday morning, we extended our registration period to enable form tutors to share information with children about the significance of VE day. I hope children recognised the importance of this. I am grateful to Mr Woodward, our Head of History, for preparing material for this.

At first break today the year 7 Student Council went to surprise the Science Technicians. They gave a speech about how important their job was to their education and how their work behind the scenes helps to keep their lessons interesting and safe. Students gave a card and a biscuit to each technician and shook hands with them to show their gratitude.

We begin next week with a visit from Emily Darlington MP who will be speaking to Politics students, Student Leaders and Student Councillors. Year 9 and 10 Animal Care students and some Year 12 students will have an equine experience on Monday at Redwings Horse Sanctuary. There is a Curriculum and Teaching meeting of our Governing Board on Monday evening. On Tuesday there is a parent information evening about the upcoming Year 8 bushcraft residential trip. On Thursday evening Year 8 parents have the opportunity to meet their child's mentor in virtual meetings. Year 8 Days of

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Recollection continue next week too. On Friday, the Drama department are taking a group of pupils to see the Welsh National Opera at MK Theatre.

As the allergy season approaches, please can I ask that children come to school with plenty of tissues. We do not have boxes of tissues in classrooms, and we cannot be regularly letting children leave lessons to go to the toilets to get some tissues. Thank you for your support with this. Also, I have been sent a list of number plates from cars that are parking in the car park by the flats near school. Please remember that this is private property and our community should not be using the car park under any circumstances, even for a few minutes to collect children.

Year 13 study leave begins next Friday on the 16th May and we wish all our students every success in the examinations.

Have a lovely weekend in the sunshine.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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