

7th May 2021

Dear families

It doesn't seem as though we had a day away from school on Monday and it has been a busy week for the students. My updates to them are copied below for your information.

I hope that you found the booking process for Parents' Evening to be straightforward and I apologise to anyone who is having difficulties with the process. Please do let us know and we will try to assist.

Kind regards

Nicholas Griffith

Dear year 12

I hope it has been a good week for you. Something I would recommend in the next two weeks is speaking with year 13 students to help you understand how much work is involved in preparing for final examinations. This appreciation is one reason why we hold end of year 12 exams and these will be in the week starting June 21st. Teachers have been asked to issue revision lists before half-term so please do ask for them in lessons. The grades from these examinations will be the key piece of data that is used when the school completes your UCAS references. If you have not already started revising then you are already behind.

Parents' Evening

Next Wednesday is your Parents' Evening and you can use the attached guide to make appointments. These are filling up fast so please don't wait as some staff will be full soon. There is no lesson 7 next Wednesday to allow you to get home as it is important that you are there to share in the conversation.

Sport

This week has seen two sports fixtures taking place and it was a pleasure to watch some of Tuesday's football match against one team of Old Liverpoolians. Many of the opposition were men who I taught ten or more years ago and it is always lovely to see how much they welcome the opportunity to come back to school.

Well done to all involved in the two games and especially to Jacob for co-ordinating the team plans. A 4-3 loss and a 6-5 win reflected the close and exciting nature of both games.

I am looking forward to hearing about the hockey match soon. It is always nice to visit the astroturf on a Thursday after school and to hear the sounds of happiness coming from the hockey game.

Careers

I have received details of a careers talk next week from IBM that I am sharing in the hope that some of you will sign up. Please do come and tell me about it if you join the meeting.

We have a very special evening event coming up with one of the biggest technology companies in the world; IBM. On Thursday 13th May, 5pm - 6pm we'll be hosting an event with some of IBM's top Business & Technology leaders. This is the first time ever that we've been able to bring together some of IBM's most senior figures within the business to come and talk to us all about what it's like working for one of the world's largest tech companies. At IBM, work is more than a job — it's a calling. To build. To design. To code. To consult. To think along with clients and sell. To make markets. To invent. To collaborate. Not just to do something better, but to attempt things you've never thought possible. To lead in this new era of technology and solve some of the world's most challenging problems. Hear about some of the exciting projects they are working on as well as their school leaver opportunities, summer insight days and gap year placements. If you'd like to apply to this event to find out more, please click on the application link below.

<https://www.research.net/r/IBM-Insight-Evening>

Cambridge University

I had a letter today outlining some schemes run by Pembroke College at Cambridge University for students who are thinking of applying there for a degree in any of these subjects:

Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic; Archeology; Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; Classics; Education; English; History; History and Modern Languages; History and Politics; History of Art; Human, Social, and Political Sciences; Law; Philosophy; Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion.

If you would like to apply then the link is pasted below. Please do come and tell me if you have been successful.

<https://www.pem.cam.ac.uk/study-here/access-and-outreach/events-prospective-students/year-12-arts-and-humanities-summer>

Senior Prefect applications

A reminder that the deadline for emailing me applications for the Senior Prefect positions is this coming Sunday evening and I will be printing all letters as soon as I get to school on Monday. I have pasted some of the instructions that I sent last week below for you as a reminder. I have very much enjoyed reading the applications I have received so far from a fine group of students.

You should send me a letter written in Word and attached to an email. The letter should begin 'Dear Mr Griffith. I wish to apply for a Senior Prefect position' and then outline how

you have shown commitment and support for the school and what you could bring to the role. Please limit yourself to 600 words and remember to type your name at the bottom! Once all letters have been received, I will outline the next step of the process to the applicants. This is a good opportunity to practice your letter writing skills and some of the content will prove useful when it comes to UCAS applications. Fourteen people will be given one of these roles – two Heads of School and twelve Heads of House covering our six Houses. I would like to make it clear to students who joined us in September that their applications will be very welcome along with those who have been here longer. Once students have been appointed to these roles, there will be a second round of applications for a wider variety of positions such as sports captains, Heads of CCF sections, pastoral prefects with responsibility for working with younger pupils and several others.

Finally, this week, I saw this message on social media this week and thought it was worth sharing and asking you to reflect upon it.

If kindness is a sign of weakness,
I'm happy to be weak.

If crying is a sign of weakness, I'm
happy to be weak.

If asking for a help is a sign of
weakness, I'm happy to be weak.

But, for the record, they aren't.
They make us the strongest we
can be.

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Mr Griffith