



Friday 2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Update

My thanks to all of the Year 9 parents who attended the parents' evening yesterday. I hope that you found it useful. When I was last updated, we had no waiting lists (which has not previously been the case with the larger 240+ year groups) so I am hopeful that the change to parents' evenings this year has created the capacity for parents to meet with their child's teachers. Sincere thanks to all parents who supported arrangements for the early closure to allow for appointments to start earlier.

Sixth Form Fundraising Week & Non-school Uniform Day

Next week will see the annual Sixth Form Fundraising Week. This event is an opportunity for the school to come together to raise money for charities which are working hard to support people around the UK.

This year, the Sixth Form have selected two charities and all money raised during the week will be split between these two incredibly important charities:

- Local charity [Me2Club](#), based in Woodley, who are an inclusion charity for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities throughout the Wokingham area.
- [Beat](#), the UK's leading charity supporting people with eating disorders.

The events taking place this year are:

- Lip Sync Battle
- Ultimate Sixth Former
- Whole School Quiz
- Fundraising Fayre.

The week will then end with a non-school uniform day on Friday 9th February. Donations can be made through [Scopay](#) (£3 for a wristband and £1 for non-uniform day) or students can pay £1 on the door for entry to each event. We hope everyone enjoys the events taking place and we thank you in advance for your very kind donations.

Canteen Special Update

- Loaded Chips: On Wednesday 7th February the canteen will be serving a special range of 'fully loaded' topped chips for the day.
- Account overdrafts: the catering company cannot allow students to build up debts. Please ensure that your child's account is topped up online in advance, or provide your child with cash so that they can top up using the paying machine. Alternatively, students can pay with cards/Apple Pay/Google Pay.



Free School Meals and Extra Funding for Your Child's Education

Across the UK more than 10% of pupils who are eligible for free school meals do not register to get them. We want to make sure 100% of our eligible pupils claim. Importantly, it also means schools can get additional funding to support pupils. To qualify, your child must be in school and you must be receiving one of the following benefits:

- [Income support](#)
- Income based [Job Seekers Allowance](#)
- Income related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- [NASS support](#)
- Guarantee element of [State Pension](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#), provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- [Working Tax Credit](#) for the four weeks after employment ends
- [Universal Credit](#), provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400

If this applies to you and your child isn't registered for free school meals, complete [this form](#) and return it us.

Careers Update

- [Unifrog](#) is an online platform that our students can access for support with careers. If your child ever forgets their password they just need to click on 'reset password/resend welcome email', and a link will be sent to their school email allowing them to set a new password.
- Listen to the latest Media Careers Podcast via [this link](#).
- Apprenticeships information:
 - [Apprenticeships, Jobs, Reviews & Careers Advice for School & College Leavers](#)
 - [Apprenticeship Care Leavers' Bursary Eligibility](#)
 - [Apprenticeships Care Leavers' Bursary Guidance](#)

Wokingham Town Council Lunar New Year Event

Wokingham Town Council is holding an event to celebrate Lunar New Year, in Wokingham Market Place on Sunday 18th February from 11-3pm. The Lion Dance, one of the most important traditions at Lunar New Year, will be performed at 12pm and 2pm, alongside music, arts and crafts. For more information use [this link](#).

KS3 Music Concert

On Wednesday 28th February the Music Department will hold the KS3 concert, this year entitled Winter Farewell. Tickets are now available via [Scopay](#) (Adult: £6, Child/Concession: £3). The evening will consist predominantly of performances by KS3 students, supported by some older students.

PTA – Wokingham Half Marathon - Bag Drop

We are again helping with the Bag Drop at this year's Wokingham Half Marathon on Sunday 25th February and we need your help! If you're able to help, please sign up via [this link](#).



Next week is the final week of this half-term. The half-term will end at 2.55pm on Friday 9th February and the first bell will ring at 8.20am on Monday 19th February at the start of next half-term.

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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