

19 February 2024

Dear Families

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well after the half term break last week. I am writing to give you a brief update about the half term ahead, but also to confirm that **our next school INSET day for staff is Monday 4th March 2024.**

This next half term is filled with a lot of activity for our students with some key dates including:

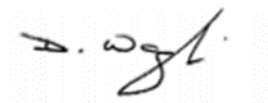
- **Thursday 22nd February.** Year 7 Family "Inspiring Greatness Evening" 6.00pm start. Yr7 families will have received a separate communication about this.
- **Monday 26th February.** Year 11 mock exams start. This is the last opportunity for students in year 11 to fully demonstrate their progress towards their GCSEs, which start in 10-weeks' time. These exams are vital as they will allow us to adjust our teaching content for the remainder of their lessons, focussing entirely on their weaker areas. This use of "Question Level Analysis" allows us to give every student their own individual assessment of strengths and weaknesses in each subject area. This in turn allows them, and us, to tailor their revision to the most effective areas.
- **Friday 1st March.** Offer Day. Our future Year 7 students will receive their offer of a place here at GAA for September on the 1st March. We have had over 400 applications for our 270 **places**, making us one of the most popular schools in Tameside. A full range of transition activities are being put in place to support their transition to GAA.
- **Monday 4th March, Staff INSET Day.** Only year 11 will be on site as they have their English and mathematics GCSE mock exams on that day. All other year groups will be at home.
- **Tuesday 5th March.** Year 8 will in this week receive their very own personal copy of their Shakespearean text, Romeo & Juliet. We feel it is very important to support all our students with their reading and English study progress and hence we ensure that every student in year 8 receives their own personal copy of Shakespeare to support their learning.
- **Thursday 7th March,** Year 9 Parents Evening. Your children should be securing their appointments currently.
- **Monday 25th March.** This week will see the launch of our "Good Egg" reward assemblies, recognising all students in all year groups who consistently demonstrate our GREAT values.
- **Thursday 28th March.** We break for the Easter holidays at the end of the day on Thursday 28th March. Please note this is a full day and we are not finishing half day. Students will begin to return on Monday 15th April 2024.
- **Tuesday 2nd April – Friday 12th April,** Year 11 Easter Revision School. All Yr11 students will receive a timetable for their revision over the Easter break and to run alongside this there will be an extensive amount of in-school Easter Revision Sessions. Details to follow.

Over the next 5-weeks of this half term, we are also moving away from our current school, and trust, "Management Information System" (MIS). Presently, all our systems are based on Sims MIS, and we will be moving entirely over to Brom Comm MIS by the Easter break. This is an extra ordinary migration of data and because of this, we have established the additional INSET day on Monday 4th March 2024. On this day, we will be focussing on ensuring a smooth transition of our systems, which quite literally incorporates all our communication, data and management platforms. Our systems such as Class Charts, Parent Pay, subject based platforms and websites, catering accounts, text messaging and email services, etc. are all affected by this migration and hence the need for the INSET day on Monday 4th March.

I am confident that our movement to the new system, which is happening across all schools in our Trust, will bring great future benefits for communication and interaction with families, of which details to follow.

Thank you for your continued support of us supporting your children. We have some very exciting things ahead of us and I will be writing again in a few weeks with some updates to the potential adjustment to the school day for 2024-25 and the further increase in reading and literacy opportunities.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Waugh', is positioned above a rectangular area with a light gray dotted grid pattern.

Mr David Waugh
Principal