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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a very productive half term we thank you again for all you do to ensure your children are equipped for school and ready to learn. Many thanks to all parents and carers of Year 11 for your support during the first part of the exam period, they have been exemplary in their exams. We look forward to seeing the same mature and positive attitude after half term, for the last few weeks of the GCSE season!

Personal Development

After mentioning aspects of our personal development programme in last week's letter, a few of you have been in touch to ask for more information about 'County lines'.

Last Friday, Christina Gabbitas, an award winning children's author, poet and voice artist, shared an animated story called "Trapped in County lines", which followed the lives of 4 young people who got caught up in the illegal drugs trade. Students were engaged by the characters and asked mature and well thought out questions to increase their awareness of this dangerous issue.

For more information see her website

[Trapped In County Lines, a Story by Christina Gabbitas – A STORY BY CHRISTINA GABBITAS, ILLUSTRATED BY ALICIA ABBOT & ADAM STORCH WITH ANIMATION BY INIT CREATIVE.](#)

For any further information and support on these issues, students were signposted to the Childline and Crimestoppers.

Excessive Screentime/Phone use:

It has come to our attention, in personal development lesson discussions, that some students are spending more than 70 hours per week on their phones. Excessive screen time can lead to various issues, including poor academic performance, reduced social interactions, sleep disturbances, and eye strain. Monitoring and managing screen time is essential for fostering a healthy balance between online and offline activities.

To help you track your child's screen time, here are instructions for accessing screen time statistics on different devices:

iPhone/iPad	Android
Open the Settings app. Tap on Screen Time. You'll see a summary of daily and weekly usage. Tap on See All Activity for detailed statistics.	Open the Settings app. Tap on Digital Wellbeing & parental controls. You'll see a summary of your usage. Tap on the chart for detailed statistics.

By regularly checking these statistics, you can gain insights into your child's screen time habits and guide them toward healthier digital behaviours.

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Attendance Streaks Initiative – message from Mr Wadsworth

After half-term, we will be launching the Attendance Streak Initiative, designed to encourage and reward students for their dedication to consistent attendance. By attending school every day, students not only enhance their learning experience but also build valuable habits for the future.

Milestones and Rewards:

- **10 Consecutive Days of Attendance:** Students will receive a certificate of recognition.
- **20 Consecutive Days of Attendance:** Students will be entered into a prize draw for an Amazon voucher.
- **30 Consecutive Days of Attendance:** Students will enter a raffle for a chance to win a grand prize, such as a gift card or a special event ticket.

We believe this initiative will motivate students to maintain a strong attendance record, contributing to their academic success and personal growth. Thank you for your support in encouraging your child to strive for these attendance milestones.

Student Leadership Meeting:

Today, our Student Leadership Team met to discuss several ways to further enhance the school experience for all students. The topics discussed included:

- **PE Kit:** Consulting on their thoughts about if students should continue to arrive to school in their PE kit or get changed in the changing rooms for PE lessons.
- **Extra-curricular Activities:** Creating a timetable of clubs and sports available to students.
- **Community Engagement:** Increasing opportunities for students to participate in community service and outreach programs.
- **Student Support:** Strengthening mental health resources and peer support initiatives.

We are also excited to announce that we will be recruiting new student leaders ahead of the new school year. Additionally, we will soon announce the successors to Emily and Jensen as our Head Girl and Head Boy. If your child is interested in joining the Student Leadership Team, they should see Mr. Wadsworth for an application form.

“Lead by example. Be the person you want others to become and inspire them through your actions.” – Albert Einstein

Finally this week, all schools have been asked by Ofsted to send parents/carers a link to their ‘The Big Listen’ survey.

Ofsted - The Big Listen – we want to hear your views

The National Centre for Social Research (NatGen) is carrying out a short survey on behalf of Ofsted. We want to hear from parents/carers of children who are under 18 years old. It should only take around 10 minutes to complete. We are interested in views of, and any experiences with, Ofsted, including Ofsted’s inspection, regulation and reporting practices. We really want to hear from a wide range of parents and carers, even if you don’t have strong opinions about Ofsted, or haven’t had any experience of Ofsted. The survey findings will be used to help Ofsted improve the way it works in the future.

Please click on the following link to find out more or take part in the survey: survey.natcen.ac.uk/TheBigListen

You can look at our [Taking Part webpage](#) for more information about the research, and our [Privacy Notice](#) for what will happen to any information you give. Links to these webpages are also included in the survey.

We hope you all have a restful half term break and look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Monday 3rd June.

God bless you all,



Mrs D. Mitchell
Headteacher

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