

Dear Parents / Carers

Thank you to all our Y10 parents for supporting and attending our parents' evening yesterday. We had over 86.39% attendance rates. We thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to meeting our Y8 parents on 9th May. If you have curriculum questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher directly. If you have pastoral questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor directly.

**Attendance**

We have recently received a high number of leave of absence requests from parents. Unless the leave of absence request is for exceptional circumstances, unfortunately we will not be able to authorise the absence.

Attendance year to date =	91.0%	Persistent Absence year to date =	25.5%
Year 7		92.7%	20.5%
Year 8		92.6%	23.9%
Year 9		89.8%	32.5%
Year 10		90.5%	24%
Year 11		88.3%	27.8%

**Student leadership**

It was a pleasure this week to meet with all newly appointed prefects, senior students and head students. As a group of 46 we know they will take forward and continue the legacy of last year's leadership team who were truly fantastic. Next week a small group of Year 9 senior students will be going with Mr Shepherd to be trained as mental health leads where they will put programmes together with the help of staff to support younger students on their return. Training will also be starting in a couple of weeks for our Year 7 transition ambassadors as well as our new peer education team with students in Years 7, 9 and 10. Our Year 8 sports leaders are doing a great job preparing to lead sessions with students from primary schools which will happen in June.

**Student leadership - BEAT award update**

One way all students can demonstrate their leadership ability and skills is with the BEAT award, students are able to demonstrate the BEATs in a wide variety of ways. By completing all criteria within one BEAT students can earn the BEAT badge. By completing the top criteria for each BEAT and 10 other criteria across all BEATs students can achieve the BEAT award. Due to the criteria being for sustained effort this term it has been the first when we have been able to recognise achievement. It was therefore a pleasure last week to be able to give out 202 BEAT badges as well as those students recognised by their tutors. Currently 14 students have achieved the BEAT award and we will look to award these at a special presentation evening in July.

**Student leadership - School council update**

We have also had the privilege this week to recognise the students who are on the year councils. This is an important role as they represent the voices of their tutor groups, as a rights respecting school student voice is incredibly important article 12 - talks about the right for young people to be listened to and heard. As a school we take this seriously. Next week in tutor time students will have the opportunity to discuss issues important to them. This will then go to year councils the following

week, before school council and SLT before the end of term. Please do encourage your child to participate in these discussions as we really do listen, and this is the way for all students to be heard.

In the last year the student voice coming from council has made a number of improvements to our school some of these include:

- Changes to the ILS and how this works.
- Ensured that students can check the balance in the canteen
- Had an additional Non- uniform day
- Developed our extra-curricular offer
- In the recent timetable change a reduction in double lessons has taken place.

Beyond tutor discussions we currently have 258 students who are actively engaged in student leadership across Years 7-10 well done to all of them.

### **Sporting activities and achievements - Review of Term 4**

Tuesday 20th Feb - U16s Boys football team beat Lawn Manor away 9-2 Player of the day Jose.

Tuesday 20th Feb - Y7 football team won 13-0 away at Swindon Academy. The boys were fantastic, played well as a team and worked hard for the first whistle to the last. POTM goes to Carson, who scored 4 goals.



Tuesday 27th Feb - Y7 Boys second team played in a football tournament V Dorcan, Swindon Academy and Highworth. We entered 2 teams, with one team winning the tournament, the other coming second. POTM goes to Jack, who didn't concede all tournament.

Monday 4th March @ Gloucester - Our U14 netball team competed in a state school tournament against 9 other schools. They came 2nd in their pool and went onto the second round. Overall they came 5th in the tournament, 1st out of all the schools in Swindon. POTM - Izzie.

Tuesday 5th March - U14 Girls Basketball team played against Dorcan and St Joes. Both games were narrowly lost. POTM goes to Lylah.

Friday 8th 'Let Girls Play Campaign' - 23 Year 7 and Year 8 students participated in a football match at lunchtime in honour of the let girls play campaign. MP Justin Tomlinson came on at half time in midfield for the non-bib team. The score at the final whistle was 0-0 with a close attempt from the Year 7's. POTM - Mazie & Kaitlan (Year 8), Lailal (Year 7).



Wednesday 13th March @ KDS - Our Year 7 girls basketball team hosted a triangular tournament against Swindon Academy, and RWBA. The girls first played RWBA and won 10-6 against them. Their next game was against Swindon Academy where they drew 8-8. Due to their win and draw, they came out as the overall winners for the triangular. POTM - Ruby.

Y7 Boys Quarter final Home V Bradon Forest - 2-0 win. The boys faced a very physical challenge against Bradon Forest in the Swindon Schools Quarter final. The team played really well, and played some superb football. A goal from Fraser, followed up by a fantastic free kick from Oscar was enough to get the team through to the Semi-finals.

### Future Events

28th Apr	: Girls football in Bristol
1st May	: Visiting Artist Y10 GCSE Art
1st May	: ASC Coffee afternoon
4th May	: DofE Practice walk
6th May	: Bank Holiday
9th May	: GCSE Exams begin
9th May	: Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
10th May	: Netball trip to Bath
23rd May	: Year 6 Information Evening 6pm
24th May	: End of Term 5 (Week 2 - students finish at 12.50pm)
24th - 26th May	: DofE Silver Expedition practice
3rd June	: Start of Term 6

With our continued thanks.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett  
**Headteacher**