

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another week over! As we come closer to the end of term, I write with my latest update.

TOILET PROVISION

As you are aware, we have been having to manage student access to the toilets following an issue we experienced with the sewer drain that collects waste from three of our five toilet blocks. I have been really grateful to our students for the way in which they have managed this, and am now writing to let you know of some further changes we are making to make this function better for the final weeks of term; understandably we have been seeing increased numbers of pupils missing lesson time to go to the toilet during this period, and we are now in a position to return to more normal ways of working.

Now that Year 11 have moved on, we have almost 200 fewer pupils in the building, and therefore the level of demand will now fall significantly – in addition we have lots of trips and visits in these final weeks of term, which lowers the number of pupils in school a bit further – and our current attendance is a very disappointing 90% which means even less need for the current arrangements to remain in place. For the past few weeks we have had a system of allowing pupils to go to the toilets whenever they like, as the toilets were understandably very busy at breaks, lunches and before school starts. Having checked over the past few days, this is no longer the case, so we can return to our more normal operating mode for this, which is that we ask pupils to go to the toilet outside of lesson times if at all possible, so that lost learning time is minimised. Pupils therefore will, from Monday, no longer be allowed to automatically leave lessons to go to the toilet, and staff will return to our normal approach which is that we expect pupils in the vast majority of cases to visit the toilets in social time.

From Monday, we will have 2 year groups assigned to each working toilet block - Year 7 and Year 8 will use the ones in the English corridor, while Year 9 and Year 10 will be allocated use of the ones by the DT corridor. We will continue to maintain strong supervision around each of the toilet blocks during social times for the rest of the year to ensure the toilets continue to be accessed safely and appropriately. I would be grateful if you could briefly discuss this change with your child and encourage them to avoid asking to go to the toilet during lessons. Obviously where a child has a specific health need, and has a toilet pass, that will continue to be respected.

LAST DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Traditionally, the school closes at lunchtime on the final day of the academic year. We will close for the summer break therefore at 1pm on Friday, 21st July. Harrods and Eagles buses will collect children at this time (that is Buses 1, 2 and 5). Unfortunately, Lynx buses (buses 3, 4, 43 and X46) are unable to collect at that time, and will arrive at 3pm as usual. We will provide social time supervision for those pupils in school until 3pm, although parents are of course free to make alternative arrangements for their children if you would prefer that they also leave the site at 1pm. If you would prefer that your child stay onsite until 3pm, please let your child's head of year know so that we know how many children to expect.

Enjoy the wonderful weather over the weekend!

Best wishes



Alan Fletcher