

14 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As the term draws to a close, these last two weeks have been filled with festive cheer and, more importantly, celebrating the successes of our students who have proved themselves to be remarkable. I take great pride in their achievements, each student is special in their own way, and it's a pleasure to recognise this in the Celebration Assemblies and to see their stunning performance at the Carol Service in Romsey Abbey.

It is no surprise that the term has been filled with a rich array of trips, events and residential visits. They've been team building, diving into the National Archives, scouring Whitechapel in the footsteps of Jack the Ripper, going back to the 80s at Pineapple Dance Studios and satisfying their scientific curiosity in a range of venues. They've dipped into politics hosting their own Climate Change Conference and putting Caroline Nokes, their own local MP, on the spot with a live Q and A session. And, of course, they've explored the world: discovering the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, discovering the châteaux of the Loire and volunteering in a village in The Gambia.

I'd like to thank parents and carers for your support and, also, the staff who give generously of their own time, away from their own families, to provide your children with such life-enriching opportunities.

We were delighted to learn that the school has been awarded the Quality in Careers Standard; this is a national award which recognises schools who have excellent, high quality careers education, advice and guidance which fulfil the Gatsby benchmarks for world-class provision.

Arrangements for the last day of term

The term ends on **Friday 15 December** at **12:30pm**. Buses will depart by 12:35pm. Food will be served at breakfast and at morning break.

Next Term

The Spring Term begins on **Thursday 4 January** at 8:35am. The half term break is from Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February. There is an INSET Day on Monday 19 February so the students will return on Tuesday 20 February.

I would like to remind you that any uniform purchases over the holidays are fully in line with our school uniform policies in order to help maintain our high standards.

I'm sure you are eagerly awaiting the Christmas break and so I would like to wish you all a restful and relaxing time with your loved ones and much joy and happiness for the new year to come.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Portas Headmaster