



Malbank School & Sixth Form College

Rejoice in being the best that we can be.

24.5.24

End of half term letter home

Dear Parent/Carer,

At the end of another successful half term at school I wanted to pass on my thanks to all staff, students and parents for their hard work in recent months. A particular big thanks to all involved in Year 11 and 13 exams which are now at the halfway stage – we have been delighted with how these exams have gone so far and I would like to commend the students for their hard work and effort.

As it is the end of a half term and we have a one-week break, it is also an opportune moment to remind parents and students about uniform as we enter the last half term. We have noticed a few students in recent weeks with uniform that is not how we would like it to be, so want to make our expectations clear so everyone returns on June 3rd looking exactly as they should.

- Footwear must be all black and leather. There can be no other colours or air bubbles on the footwear, if students wear the Nike Air Force footwear that complies with these rules, the silver tags must also be removed.
- Socks must be black or grey and either knee or ankle length. Fluffy coloured socks or trainer socks are not allowed.
- In terms of jewellery: 1 pair of stud earrings are allowed and 1 ring. No chains or necklaces should be on show. No bracelets to be worn other than for medical reasons. Nose piercings are not allowed. Should students already have their nose pierced, a clear plastic retainer should be worn during school hours, or a plaster should be used to cover the piercing.
- Hoodies are not allowed. During cold weather, a coat should be worn over the blazer when outside. A base-layer can be worn underneath the shirt as long as it is not visible. The school does have an optional school jumper if students want additional warmth – however, this is not an alternative to the blazer. Please note, as part of their leavers experience, year 11 students are allowed to wear the leavers hoodies purchased through school. This is the only exemption to the rule and no other form of hoodie is allowed for Y11 students.
- The blazer is not optional – students may ask to remove the blazer in hot weather and staff will always handle this sensibly, but students should not come to school without a blazer.
- Can I also remind you that phones or headphones are not allowed in school and will be confiscated if used on site. If students need to call home, they must go to their key stage office or to student services.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that we have been very lucky to access additional financial support from a local charity called the Nantwich and Acton Grammar School Association to support a uniform hardship fund that can be used if anyone is having problems with purchasing uniform for their child. We know finances can be tight for many of our families so if you would like to speak to us about this and access support, please contact the key stage teams who will do all they can to help.

Students may also mention that we ran a test of our lockdown alarm today at school during period 4. We have reviewed and revisited our lockdown plans in the last half term to make sure all staff were aware of what we do in such an event, running training for all staff a fortnight ago.

This was communicated to students in assemblies during the last two weeks as we sensitively and tactfully wanted to raise awareness of what we do without making them concerned about something that hopefully they will never need to do.

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As such, today we ran a test of the lockdown alarm at around 1.25pm for approximately 15 seconds. This was simply because we needed students to know what it sounds like as it is very different to the fire alarm, and it is essential there is no confusion about what the lockdown sound indicates.

Students did not have to do anything at all, and the sound test did not involve any sort of “lockdown practice” for students as we are keenly aware that this would likely raise anxieties when this is not necessary. What is key is that staff are trained and able to direct and support the students in such an event. As explained in the assemblies, our students simply need to follow our directions.

Today also marks a lovely but sad moment for us as a school as we say goodbye to our fantastic year 13 who go on study leave today. Mr Batty and the Key stage team led a brilliant event in the sports hall where students shared some food and fun final moments together. We wish all our Y13 the very best in their exams and look forward to hearing where life takes them next.

The end of term has also seen two groups leave school for residential in Normandy and Berlin. We have been receiving some great feedback about how the trips have been going and look forward to more details about the experiences they have had together when we return after half term. A massive thanks to the two teams who have run the trip and in doing so have given up some of their holiday time to make it happen.

The final half term brings lots of lovely moments for us to share together as a community – house assemblies, rewards events, enrichment days, sports days and the Year 6 transition days at the end of June. From an academic perspective we also have some fantastic opportunities for students to temperature check their own progress and performance in the guise of our annual end of year exams. It is important that students from Y7 to 10 and the Y12s taking their Y13 entrance exams use these exams as a learning experience, getting used to the routine and pressures of exams as well as helping them to realise subjects they need to prioritise in the 2024/25 academic year. Separate information about the exams will be sent to each year group to clarify details and revision.

I wanted to also take a moment to remember Mr Cole from Brine Leas, who as you will know sadly passed away this half term. Dave was a friend of mine for whom I had an enormous amount of respect. He was a brilliant headteacher – full of inspiration and knowledge, but more importantly he was a funny, kind and caring man. I have the privilege of being involved in his funeral next week and as a school I wanted to take a moment to pay tribute to him and the work he did for children in Nantwich. The sad news certainly made me reflect and cherish time spent with loved ones, so I am very much looking forward to some time with my wife and children during this half term break. We need to enjoy these moments we have together and focus on what matters most.

I wish you and your family a great half term break, we look forward to seeing all students back refreshed and ready for the last 7 (and a bit!) weeks of the academic year on Monday the 3rd of June.

Yours,

Mr Harrison
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