



Malbank School & Sixth Form College

Rejoice in being the best that we can be.

End of February half term update (13/2/25)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a fantastic few weeks it has been since we returned after Christmas. From the dedication shown in classrooms to the wide range of opportunities beyond lessons, it has been wonderful to see students making the most of school life here at Malbank.

It has certainly been a half term packed with exciting events and extra-curricular moments. Our Politics students had the chance to take part in a Q&A with Connor Naismith MP, gaining insight into the workings of government. We were also proud to be involved in the first local LEGO design competition, showcasing the creativity of our students. A real highlight was our certificates evening, where we were inspired by an incredible speech from ex-student and three-time Olympic medallist Bryony Page. House competitions have been as lively as ever, with challenges ranging from keepy-ups and remote-control car racing to castle building. There really is never a dull day at Malbank!

On Tuesday of this week, we focussed on Safer Internet Day in our Education for life lessons, and I encourage you to take a moment to talk to your child about what we covered. As always, it is really valuable to have open conversations about device use, the content they access, and the importance of staying aware and safe online. We have also spoken this year about the benefits of having scheduled "down time" from screens, using app limits to encourage sensible usage, and making sure there is plenty of time away from devices to focus on other aspects of life.

I would like to remind you that the consultation regarding our potential transition to The Cornovii Multi-Academy Trust is still ongoing. Parents and guardians are encouraged to share views and ask any questions via the MS Form, which will remain open until 5pm on Monday, 17th February. You can access the form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/SUJAKUagqc>. To help explain the rationale behind this proposal, a Loom video is also available at <https://bit.ly/MalbankMATparentvideo> alongside the initial letter and FAQs sent out at the start of the consultation on 27th January.

A special thank you goes to the staff supporting the half-term New York residential. Trips like this take an enormous amount of planning, risk assessing and commitment, and we are so grateful for the time and energy our staff invest to make these experiences possible. We will do our best to share some great images of the trip on social media, hopefully inspiring younger students to consider taking part in exciting residential like this in the future!

The holidays are always a great opportunity to check that school uniform is up to date and complete so that everyone returns as neat as possible, embracing the Malbank way and showing pride in our standards. We understand that uniform can be an expense, so if any families are struggling to finance items, please do not hesitate to reach out to the key stage teams as we are always here to help and support wherever we can.

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Coming back after the break offers everyone a chance for a fresh start, and I would love for it to be your child's best half term yet for attendance. As a school, we are working hard to ensure students are in as much as possible, but when that approach is matched by support from home, our chance of success is far higher. For students in exam years the correlation between attendance and outcomes is incredible - it is genuinely true that every day, indeed every lesson makes a difference.

As we head into the break, I want to remind all students especially those in Year 11 and Year 13 of the importance of balance. This holiday is an opportunity for rest, relaxation, and recovery, which are just as essential as revision in key exam years. I encourage students to use their time wisely, making space for both productive study and well-deserved downtime in advance of an incredibly important half term leading up to the start of exams in May.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. I hope you and your families have a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Best wishes,

Mr Harrison
Headteacher
Malbank School and 6th Form

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