

# HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 11, 29TH NOVEMBER, 2024



Dear Parents

I write to you today having returned to school from an inspection this week on behalf of the Independent School Inspectorate (ISI). It is always so interesting to spend time in another school environment; seeing how they do things and what is important to them as a school community. It is fair to say that school inspection can be a pressurised time for both the school and the team of inspectors themselves as they seek to find out what it is like to be a pupil at that school. The ISI inspection process changed last year and schools are no longer judged as being excellent, good, sound or unsatisfactory; but rather are assessed as to whether they are meeting the independent school standards and regulations as well as offering all schools recommended next steps. The aim of this process serves two important purposes; to check how the school is currently performing and to identify what might make things even better for pupils at the school. Town Close itself will likely be inspected within the next year or so, and whilst I am sure that we will feel a bit of pressure when the time comes, we must remember that not only do we have a huge amount to be proud of in our wonderful school, but that the intended outcome at the end is to help us to keep moving forwards for the pupils in our care.

This theme in many ways can be linked to the experience of pupils further up the school, who this week have been sitting their internal assessments and exams. It is understandable that some pupils feel a degree of pressure at this time, but the intention is very much to recognise what the pupils can do and identify areas of improvement so that they can become the best versions of themselves. These assessments also serve as excellent preparation for the future, not only in terms of sitting exams, which will no doubt continue to be an important feature of their onward education, but in terms of how to be your best in the face of a challenge. This being said, I am keen to review our approach in this area over the course of the year ahead to ensure that we are truly doing all that we can to ensure that our pupils are given every opportunity to put their best foot forward and recognise all that they can do. Having spoken to a number of pupils on my return to school today, the vast majority were really pleased with how they felt this week had gone and we are hugely proud of all of our pupils who have given their best efforts this week, just as they do each and every day.

Exams aside, there have been lots of other activities going on this week at school to keep our pupils busy with a real highlight being the 'History off the Page' Celts and Roman day for Years 3 and 4 this week, where our visiting 'Roman' engaged the pupils in a multitude of hands-on activities that gave a detailed insight in to life in Britain at this time. We had another exciting visitor in Reception with Mrs. Wood coming in to talk about her job as a surgeon – thank you. It has also been great to see lots of yummy things being cooked up in Pre Prep with Jam Tarts in Reception and Nursery carefully icing their Christmas Cakes. I have also been pleased to see our older pupils doing so much to help in the school community with particular thanks going to our Year 7s who helped out with the pond this week and our Year 8s who spent some lovely time in the library with our Nursery pupils.

Next week brings with it the month of December and it officially begins to get a bit more Christmassy! We look forward to welcoming many of you to our Pre Prep Advent Service on Thursday and to the much anticipated Christmas Fayre on Friday - a thank you in advance to the wonderful PTA for putting together what I am sure will be a great event to kick-off this magical time of year. Note to self – must dig out Christmas jumpers this weekend!

I hope that you have a pleasant weekend.

Mr N A J Tiley-Nunn