

## Secondary School

Director of Secondary: William Bradley

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Dear Parents,

It is astonishing how quickly the year seems to be passing! Already we are halfway through February and in just six weeks we will be starting our Spring Break. The first half of this term seemed to be crammed with events and the second half is no different.

Year 9 start the term with Futures Day which has been organised primarily by Miss Bell, our Key Stage 3 Coordinator and Dr Hawthorne, our University and Careers Counselor. Futures Day is part of the transition process from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and the IGCSE programme. This day will help to prepare students to make their IGCSE subject options in the coming weeks.

On Friday of this week we will have our third biennial Careers Fair. The Careers Fair was the brain child of one of our parents, Carmen Martino who organised the first one in 2012 along with John and Joy Bosman. Carmen's legacy has really benefitted our students in Years 10 to 13 over the years. This year we are opening the first part of the day up to students in Year 9 as well as their older colleagues. Our students will spend the day hearing about the world of careers first hand from several of our highly successful parents who work in diverse fields and have followed very different career paths. This year the organisation of the Careers Day has been taken over by Judith Kuyper and Kathleen Hawthorne and it promises to be an excellent day.

Year 9 and Year 11 parents should watch out for the Option Choice forms which will be coming home in the next two weeks. Students will have one week to complete and return the forms so that Mr Robinson can start putting the options together for both groups. We try very hard to ensure that every student will get their first choice but we do ask for some understanding from the tiny minority who may have to choose an alternative for one of their option choices.

We have three special subject weeks in the Secondary Department in this half term with Maths Week beginning on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February, Creative Arts week on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March and PE and Health week during the final week of the term which commences on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. Creative Arts week will include an Art Exhibition and Scenefest, which our students are working very hard to prepare for and have been doing so for quite some time. Of course, our PE and Health Week will include the Cross Country day in the forest on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March.

Talking of sport, we have several Istanbul Schools League fixtures taking place during this half term, our Ski Trip to Pamporovo in Bulgaria takes place between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of March and the Secondary COBIS Games will be held in Dubai between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of March. We wish all of our sporting students the best of luck in whatever event they may be competing and especially wish our Year 7 and 8 students in the COBIS Games team good luck in Dubai.



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As always, I would like to remind you that my door is open if you would like to come in to talk to me about anything that is happening in the school or about any concerns you may have. Just drop me an email and I will be happy to make an appointment for you.

With so much going on I cannot see that time will pass any slower during this half term than it did during the last; before we know it we will be sending reports home again... and that will be on the final day of the term, the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.

Yours faithfully,

William

