

## Dear Parents and Carers

Since I wrote to you at the end of March we have had a few events that are worthy of celebration. On the last day of the Spring term the whole school was involved in a Culture Day which was a suggestion from the students in the School Parliament. All students enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate their culture and learn about other cultures, specifically Eastern Europe.

Upon our return after the Easter break we had our third and final Feeling Safe day for this academic year. The students again had their 1:1s with their tutors and I am pleased to report 89% of students shared that they feel safe all of the time, with 9% feeling safe most of the time. In summary, 98% of our students feel safe all or most of the time. This is our best result yet though of course we will continue working on the reasons why students do not feel safe all of the time.

In terms of attendance we ended the Spring term on a real high. Our attendance was 90.4 % (compared to a national average of 91.2%), so just 0.8% below. Our Persistent Absence (PA) rate fell to 24.9% (national average 25.4%) which shows we are doing better than the national average with this measure. Thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting the attendance of our students; working together we are making a real difference.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are working hard in the lead up to the exams. We wish them luck and all the resilience they will need as they face this testing time. Both year groups have shown themselves to be hard-working and full of potential, so we are excited to see what the summer results may bring.

Best wishes

**Liz Furber**  
Executive Principal

## Dear Parents and Carers

As we progress into the final term of this academic year, many of you will be aware that the Principal and I were at the High Court in London last week, listening to our case against Ofsted, which goes back to the inspections of November 2022 and January 2023. This has been a long process, especially since permission to go to a Judicial Review was granted last summer.

Since then, there has been a great deal of focus on Ofsted, particularly the inquest into the death of Headteacher, Ruth Perry, and a report of the Parliamentary Education Select Committee. I think it is fair to say that both processes were highly critical of Ofsted, in particular their one-word judgements.

In response, we are told that Ofsted inspectors have all received training in mental health and well-being, and the new HMCI, Sir Martyn Oliver, has initiated a consultation exercise called 'The Big Listen'. In addition there have been some minor changes to the way in which inspections are carried out. Nevertheless, they still remain a very stressful time for all those involved.

Mr Justice Cavanagh, who heard our case over one-and-a-half days, has reserved his judgment. This means that he neither dismissed our case nor came to an immediate view at the end of hearing all the evidence. He did, though, indicate that this would be a very important decision.

As you are aware, there was interest in the case from the media, particularly the BBC, who attended both days of the hearing. We cannot make any further comment until the judge hands down his decision (which could be a few months yet) but we will let you know as soon as that happens.

In the meantime, our primary, although not sole, focus is on supporting our Year 11 and Year 13 students through their public examinations, which start very soon. I know that these year groups have worked particularly hard this year and deserve to be rewarded for their efforts.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support your child (ren) and the Academy. It really is very much appreciated.

Best wishes

**David Fraser**  
Chair of Governors

## Year 11 Prom

As we draw close to the end of our current Year 11's time with us, we are so proud of how they have worked. We know many of our students are now ready to take that next step, and we really are looking forward to giving them the send-off they deserve. This year, our Year 11 Prom will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July at The Conservatory at Luton Hoo Estate with the event starting at 7pm and finishing at 11pm. Students attending should arrange their own transport to and from the venue. Tickets will be priced at £25.00 and includes food and entertainment. **Tickets must be purchased by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May so that we can make all of the arrangements with the venue** and they can be purchased via ParentPay or at Student Reception.

**Ellen Farrell**  
Head of Year 11



**Do you know it's illegal to use a privately owned electric scooter in a public place?**

You can only use your e-scooter on private land with the landowner's permission.

If you ride in public - on roads or pavements - and are not part of a government trial, your scooter may be seized by police and you may face a fine and/or penalty points on your licence.

Full details of the government's legislation on e-scooters can be found on the gov.uk website.



## Water Bottles

Now that the warmer weather is approaching, please encourage your child to bring a refillable water bottle to school with them so that they can stay hydrated. These do not have to be one bought specifically for this purpose, but can be an empty bottle from a drink they have had earlier in the day, just something with a lid that can be refilled.

We sell refillable bottles at Student Reception for just £1.

## Looking Ahead

**6th May**  
Bank Holiday

**8th May**  
GCSEs / A Levels Begin

**15th May**  
Y10 Parents' Evening

**16th May**  
Y8 Vaccinations

**27th May**  
Half Term

**12th June**  
Y9 Parents' Evening

**19th June**  
Y11 Leavers' Assembly

**26th June**  
Y8 Parents' Evening

**w/c 1st July**  
Y10 / Y12 Work Experience

**3rd July**  
Y7 Parents' Evening

**4th July**  
Y11 Prom

## Year 11 iPads and Equipment

We will be asking Year 11 students to return their iPads, locker keys, Yondr pouches and any other items that belong to the Academy before they finish Year 11. Students will shortly be given a Leavers Form where all of these items will be signed back in by staff.

Please can you encourage students to find all items that need to be returned so that they have them to hand in plenty of time.

iPads must be returned with the case and the original Apple charger and cable that it was issued with. As you can appreciate, these are a high value resource for the Academy that benefit all students, and if any items are not returned, replacements will need to be paid for by parents/carers.

## From the Chaplain

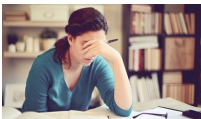
**This month's focus verse: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight." – Proverbs 3 v 5-6**

I don't know about you, but I sometimes wonder how on earth am I going to manage this, or that; I don't know what decision to choose, or what direction to take. I then sometimes find that I get myself overly stressed and can't work out the best result; I may try and figure things out given the information I have to hand - but then get anxious as to whether I've made a good choice or not. Either way, making decisions can be a stressful thing. And not just decision making, it's about managing our time, thinking about the consequences of something - like exams - if we don't do as well as hoped for, and have we done enough revision and paid sufficient attention in class over the previous years to learn what we need.



I recall a particular time when I was in school and approaching my GCSEs. I was encouraged to write a Bible verse on my ruler so that I could always refer to it either during lesson or revision time when it was out on my desk. I've used it as our focus verse; "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding, in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight." It suggests to me that I really don't need to take on all the worry and concern of choices and decisions. We should certainly make informed choices, think things through and research them, but then pray about them too and ask God to give you peace about a decision. When we ask for God to help us, trust that He has done exactly that, then leave the consequences to Him so that we don't have to worry about them.

Next time you feel anxious or worried about an impending decision why not bring this verse to mind, ask God to help guide you in your decision making, to help take away the worry from it? Sometimes we have to make



choices when the outcomes are serious. Sometimes we can often have a good idea what the right option to take actually is. Other times the outcome is less obvious, and it's at these less obvious times that, having asked God for wisdom and guidance, we can have the assurance that He has led us through the decision making process. And we may feel like we are doing all the decision making and God hasn't helped us at all! But if we've prayed about it and placed it into God's care then we can be assured that He will be working to help make the right choice - and sometimes there can be more than one correct outcome and God genuinely gives us a choice. Maybe you're going through a situation that needs a choice to be made about something? You might find the following prayer helpful.

### Prayer:

Dear God,

As we continue to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the empty tomb, we thank You that it reminds us that You not only walk with us in our struggles, but also help us to overcome them too. Please help us to remember that when I face troubles, that You are with me and can help me through. Thank You that You want to be our friend.



Amen

**Revd. Tim Davis**  
School Chaplain



## Academic Calendar - 2023/2024

School Holiday	Bank Holiday	Pupil Day	Training Day		
<b>September 2023</b>					
Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tue	5	12	19	26	
Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	
<b>October 2023</b>					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tue	3	10	17	24	31
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat	7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29
<b>November 2023</b>					
Mon	6	13	20	27	
Tue	7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	
<b>December 2023</b>					
Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tue	5	12	19	26	
Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	31
<b>January 2024</b>					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	
<b>February 2024</b>					
Mon	5	12	19	26	
Tue	6	13	20	27	
Wed	7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	
Sat	3	10	17	24	
Sun	4	11	18	25	
<b>March 2024</b>					
Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tue	5	12	19	26	
Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	31
<b>April 2024</b>					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	
<b>May 2024</b>					
Mon	6	13	20	27	
Tue	7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	
<b>June 2024</b>					
Mon	3	10	17	24	
Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	2	9	16	23	30
<b>July 2024</b>					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	
<b>August 2024</b>					
Mon	5	12	19	26	
Tue	6	13	20	27	
Wed	7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
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