

3 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Governors – Elected Parents

One of the three parents who nominated themselves for the Parent Governor vacancies has withdrawn from the process, therefore meaning that the other two nominees are automatically elected to the two vacant posts. Congratulations to Mrs Alison Salisbury and Mr Colin Smy who join the Governing Body and I look forward to welcoming them to our first meeting at the end of November.

Year 11

Yesterday we had the first face to face Parents' Evening in school since before the pandemic. It was good to see so many parents in school and I hope you found the evening constructive in helping your sons and daughters prepare not just for public exams next summer but also the mock exams.

Year 11 have mock exams in Maths, English and Science next week and then a second round of mocks which will cover most subjects in January. We are also very much at the time when Year 11 students need to be considering their plans Post 16. I am grateful to the local Post 16 providers for attending last night and for the assemblies they are delivering in these weeks. A lot of apprenticeship information is also being provided.

Preston College will be running a further Open Day on 18 November from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

School Attendance

Nationally, as you may be aware from the news, attendance is a concern as attendance rates have dropped significantly since the pandemic. As a school we are in line with national average attendance but this is below what it should be and will disadvantage many young people if their attendance falls below around 95% (the equivalent of missing more than 10 days in school – 50 lessons). Please remember that there is clear evidence that poor attendance leads to poorer outcomes and ensure your children are in school unless absolutely unavoidable. I attach again the Government guidance on sickness absence.

Where attendance falls below 94% students will be monitored by either their mentor or year leader. We also hope to start sending a weekly message to parents/carers of a cohort of students to inform you of attendance trends.

SEN

Reminder that the next SEN Drop In session takes place on Wednesday 8 November from 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. There are a few appointments remaining which can be made via contacting reception.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Waller
Headteacher



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