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28 May 2021

Re: Half-term *ist hier*

Dear Parents

I hope that this letter finds you all well and I am pleased to say that as I write (at midday) we are almost at half-term and although these last six weeks have been as tough as old boots, we have made a lot of progress across the board.

The trials of Year 11 and Year 13 are almost at an end and soon they will be able to finally take a break. Hopefully that break will coincide with a further return to normal life, as we slowly ease our way out of restrictions and those students can have a normal life again. Year 11 will be invited back into school for the transition week to A level that Mrs King has written to you about and that should be a good few days. We also have proms and dinners to fit in. Details on all of that will be cascaded out at the start of June.

The rest of Senior School are gearing up for the internal assessments which will take place in the week beginning 14 June and a great deal of ground has been covered in this busy term.

In school we are hoping to mirror the country's journey out of the pandemic and we are planning to ease some of our safety measures as the Government ease theirs, which means the next half-term will bring us back to the school life that we know and love. We will start with the Junior School having lunch in the School Refectory again which is exciting for everyone. I will write with further updates and a timeframe after half-term but I can confirm now that the timings of the school day will not change back before next September.

The second half of our term is just under six weeks long and we want to cram a lot into it. Mrs Heard and Mrs Kirk have been and will be in touch about this, but it will include the examinations/tests for the rest of the school, for different years sleep overs, a play, concerts, Sports Day, Prize Giving, Make a Difference Days, adventure days and more.

We are scheduling this in with a lot of learning which will hopefully include more collaborative work than we have been allowed for these last months, and if the weather holds, we will get outside as much as we can. I think that it will be a busy and productive time. Once the dates for everything that we are trying to do are firmed up we will cascade it out: I will write with a proper calendar of events in the first few days of the second half of this term.

Before that, I want to flag up that we expect – restrictions allowing – to have the whole school off site at Rockingham Triangle Sports Stadium for a Sports Day. We are hoping that this will be in the

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penultimate week of term and parents would be able to attend. Once the deal is signed and sealed we will let you know – I think that will be a super experience for all of the children.

I am also hoping to have an actual Prize Giving. I know some schools are having partial in-person events and partial online. I should know better after half-term the way the wind is blowing, and will let you know then.

And that is that for now – have a great and safe half-term and speak soon,

Dr C G Walker  
Headmaster



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