

12 December 2024

Dear Parents

A few notes for your consideration

Attendance

I appreciate that the winter term is one where various illnesses circulate, meaning students are often not well. This has always been the case; however, we are seeing student attendance fall below acceptable levels. The school has recently been conducting a resetting process based on the recent assessments in all year groups. It is noticeable, that the overwhelming majority of students who have done well in tests have high attendance, and unsurprisingly, those who have done poorly in comparison to their peers, have poor attendance. Attendance at school makes a difference to students' attainment.

Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers

Kent County Council will be issuing vouchers to eligible parents to cover the holiday period. This has been set at £60 per eligible child. The school has arranged for the distribution of these vouchers on Friday 13 December.

Non uniform day

There is a non-uniform day scheduled on Wednesday 18 December and we would appreciate a £2 donation which will support the Knole Community Store. The store is looking to supply Christmas Hampers to some of our most vulnerable families. Students may continue to wear school uniform if they wish on this day. All non-uniform should be presentable and weather appropriate. Rules for makeup and jewellery remain the same as the normal uniform policy.

Christmas Dinner

The student Christmas dinner will take place at lunchtime on Wednesday 18 December. The lunchtime will be slightly amended to allow all students to sit down and have a lunch if they desire. On the 18 December, a more limited offer will be available to allow the catering staff to concentrate on the Christmas lunch; students wanting something else to eat should purchase their food at breaktime or bring in a packed lunch.

Academic Tracking and end of school arrangements


Academic Tracking takes place on the evening of Thursday 19 December and the morning of Friday 20 December. The last day for students to be in school is Thursday 19 December where the school will finish at the normal time. The format of Academic Tracking has changed for this year, especially for students in KS3. We hope the new format will provide greater clarity on how students are progressing

and will be more relatable to their GCSE performance. A brief training video will be sent out to parents next week, to familiarise them with the new format; it is not essential viewing but will, I hope, provide greater clarity during the Academic Tracking appointment.

January start 2025

Students return to school on Monday 6 January 2025. Most students especially in Year 7-10 will have a significantly new timetable for January and therefore it is vital that they log onto the Arbor student app to find out what equipment they need for their return. The first period on Monday 6 January will be spent with form tutors to go through the timetable and to issue student planners. May I ask that all uniform is in good order and compliant for the return in January.

Best wishes



David Collins