

24th June, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

## **Parental Update 92**

I'm writing to you at the end of a very useful INSET day, when we have been focussing on matters relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. It was particularly good that our new SENDCo, Mrs Keegan, was able to join us for the day (and lead one of this morning's sessions) even though she doesn't officially start with us until September; thank you to her, and to all who have helped ensure the day has gone so smoothly.

### Exams

I'm pleased to report that the last few external exams have now been taken! Thank you if you have been able to pray for the students in Years 11 and 13 who sat them; I know they and their families will have appreciated your support.

Our Year 9 and Year 10 students are taking internal exams next week and I'm sure would also appreciate your thoughts, prayers and best wishes!

### Equipment

Although we haven't broken up yet, I fully expect the 'Back to School' promotions will start to be advertised in our supermarkets within the next few days! I thought it might be helpful to let you know what equipment your son or daughter will need next year for whenever you get their 'back to school' packs:

- 2 black or blue pens
- 2 green pens
- 1 pencil
- 1 sharpener
- 1 eraser
- 1 glue stick
- 1 highlighter
- 1 scientific calculator
- 1 ruler
- 1 protractor
- ...and a pencil case for them all helps too!

### Sports Day

We have set aside Tuesday 5th July to be our Sports Day this year – weather permitting! Assuming everything does go ahead as planned, our school day will finish around 3:30pm that day – slightly earlier than usual for Year 10 students, but quite a bit later than usual for students in Key Stage 3. If the slight change of time causes anyone any difficulties, **please get in touch** through [this e-mail address](#); if we are told in advance we will be able to release students at their usual time instead of at 3:30pm. But we will only be able to do this with advance notice (*ie* not on the day).

### Tuition

Some of our students currently receive externally-sourced one-to-one tuition in some subjects, funded by a Government scheme to ensure certain groups of students have the opportunity to make up any ground lost during the pandemic.

Our Director of Finance, Mr D'Arcy, writes: *“With the end of term fast approaching I thought I would share our plans over summer with regards to tuition. We have provided our students with more external tuition opportunities than ever before and thank our partners at The Education Centre for ensuring that this could take place. Senior leaders have taken the decision to pause*

*tuition at the end of term, 14th July, whilst we review our funding and budgetary position for next year. Subject to that review, we will resume tuition again when the new academic year begins in September.”*

#### News from Liverpool City Council’s Holiday Activity and Food (‘HAF’) Team

*Sally Dobbing, the HAF team’s manager, writes that this summer’s “HAF programme starts on the 20th July and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. Children and young people will be able to access hundreds of activities throughout the summer holidays including specific provision available for children with SEND or additional needs, at no cost to you. There’s a great range of activities across the city including boxing, trampolining, football, music, dance, cycling, cooking, climbing, films, bowling, arts and crafts, drama, a make up course, trips out and much more! Every day there will be a meal available for every child that attends.*

*“To find out where your nearest scheme and all the details of what is on click [here](#) or visit [www.Merseyplay.com](http://www.Merseyplay.com) and click on the HAF link.*

*“When you have chosen an activity, you will need to contact that organisation to book a place. Each organisation will have either a telephone number, email address or online booking system. If your child has any additional needs or dietary requirements then please discuss this with the organisation when you book. There is no central booking system so please read the details of the programmes on the website and ring the providers directly.*

*“Liverpool City Council is working with the local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to provide the HAF programme. The programme is funded by the Department for Education.*

*“The [Early Help Directory](#) also provides a wealth of useful information and support for families”.*

Separately, Liverpool City Council have confirmed that they will be providing a £135 food voucher for every child who is (a) entitled to Free School Meals, and (b) lives in Liverpool. I am told the vouchers have been ordered and will be received in time to distribute by the end of term.

#### Government laptops

Some of our students received laptops (provided to us by the Department for Education) during lockdown. Mr Zotos, one of our Higher-Level Teaching Assistants, writes: “*We need any DfE laptops that were given out to our pupils returned as soon as possible for a reset*” – due, I understand, to the security licences needing to be extended. If you received one, please could you return it to school, labelled with your son’s name (so we can return the correct laptop once the reset is done)? Thank you!

#### Finally

Our next *Update* is due to be sent out on Friday 8th July – the last Friday of term – when we will have a chance to bid farewell to a small number of colleagues who are leaving us for pastures new. Please look out for it then!

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley

Principal.