13th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of our first full week back at school, I wanted to share with you some helpful updates to keep you informed about school.

We had a very successful Open Evening last night, with over 500 families from our local community visiting us and confirming that we are the school of choice for pupils in year 6. We would also like to invite parents, carers and children to visit us again at our Open Morning on Saturday 21st September between 9am and 12pm. Our pupils guided parents around school, prefects and new year 7 pupils made speeches and staff talked about our curriculum, learning and opportunities for children at Pleckgate. We are looking forward to meeting more parents during the next few weeks.

I have also **attached a copy of the new progress check calendar for all year 11 pupils**. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils to address gaps in their knowledge from year 10 and demonstrate their progress and preparation for their final year of studies. It is important that all pupils in year 11 are in good habits for revision and are regularly completing independent study at home in a quiet space without distractions.

All our **Year 7 pupils received their iPads** on Wednesday evening. This is an important tool for learning. Parents can discuss classwork, homework and you will be able to support your child at home. Pupils must charge their iPad each night with the school charger, bring their iPad to school each day with the case fully charged so they are well prepared for learning. The iPad is for learning and should not be used by anyone else other than your child.

All parents should have access to **Edulink, our parent communication tool**. Please see our website for more information [**here**](https://www.pleckgate.com/edulink-one/)**.** This allows all parents/carers to have an overview of your child's experience at Pleckgate including attendance, achievement, progress and behaviour. You will also be able to see if your child is attending an extracurricular activity after school

As you know **attendance at school is the key to success** and we expect all pupils to have excellent attendance. I wish to make parents/carers aware that there have been national changes for fixed penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. Penalty notices will now be charged at £160 per parent per child. This is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. However, if a second unauthorised absence is taken within a 3-year period the penalty notice will be £160 per parent per child with no option of a discounted rate. If a third period of unauthorised absence takes place another cause of action will be considered such as prosecution or other legal attendance interventions.

As a reminder to parents, we have a **breakfast club for pupils from 7.30am**, which allows pupils to have access to breakfast facilities, a supervised space to read or complete independent study. We also have **a homework club** in the library available for pupils until 4pm each day. If you wish your child to access either of these facilities please email [kferguson@pleckgate.com](mailto:kferguson@pleckgate.com)

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and look forward to welcoming your child back to school on **Monday morning at 8.20am.**

Best wishes

Aishling McGinty

Headteacher