



28 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of the spring term provides an opportunity to reflect on the term's achievements and activities as well as a chance to look forward to a wide range of summer term events; we may even find some sunnier, drier weather so that your children can get out onto the school fields at lunchtime (hopefully before Year 11 leave).

This week has seen our termly Awards Assemblies, where we acknowledge and recognise students' achievements. We saw a mix of subject awards, celebrating tenacity and success in subject studies, and character awards for demonstrating our school values. Congratulations go to all those students who were nominated.

As you will be aware, one of our school values is Inclusivity. Connection and community are key to this and we have explored the principles of service, kindness and volunteering in our pastoral programme this term and seen this in action by our students day in - day out. School is a place to learn, make friends and make memories and I am sure some of the following will be firmly lodged in students' memory banks. Our Learning Ambassadors and Sports Leaders have worked together to plan and deliver lessons to primary school pupils; our Year 10 public speaking team had fantastic success in the recent Youth Speaks finals; students performed a brilliant musical programme at the Chill Concert; and trips this term have included Y10 French trip to Normandy, half-term ski trip, Geography field studies as well as a full range of activities on Extended Learning Day. As ever, we have also had many sporting highlights, with Cup success in Football and Netball - and we look forward to kicking off the summer by hosting County Athletics straight after the Easter break. As ever, I'd like to thank our dedicated staff who create and promote these types of new experiences and opportunities for our students.

My thanks also go to the ASA, who continue to support the school with energy and creativity. Their work enhances the experience of parents and students alike. The sell-out Quiz and Comedy Nights this term were hugely successful and funds raised are currently contributing to resources for Music, MFL and the LRC.

Of course, for some of our students, Easter signals the final break before external exams start. I'd like to take the opportunity to remind all of our examination students to use the Easter break effectively - to strike the right balance between work and relaxation so they are well prepared for their upcoming exams. Year 11 students have shown real commitment to 'Session 6' and 'i-Cards' and I look forward to seeing those attending the Easter revision programme next week. I am grateful to our staff for facilitating the extensive revision programme.

At the end of term, we often say goodbye and thank you to valued friends and colleagues. This term, we say farewell to Mr Creber (Maths), Mr Hodge (Geography), Mrs Hughes (Inclusion) and Mrs Trimlett-Porter (Teaching Assistant). We also wish all the best to Mrs Minshull who is retiring from her role as Student Receptionist after being with the school for over 10 years.

We wish you all a safe and restful break and look forward to welcoming students back to school for the summer term at 8:35am on Monday 15 April.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shapland'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'S' that loops back under the rest of the name.

**James Shapland**  
**Headteacher**