

11 February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to the letters sent at the end of last week, I wanted to update you about our plans for the last day of term alongside providing you some feedback about the Lockdown Drill that took place on Monday 10 February.

Yesterday afternoon, we undertook a Lockdown practice as part of our standard health and safety procedures. This is intended to ensure that all members of the school are aware of what to do in the unlikely event of a full or partial lockdown. This practice was completed swiftly and effectively with all students understanding the procedure. We appreciate that this type of practice can be worrying for some students and we thank parents and staff for working with those individuals concerned. Moving forwards, we will continue to make sure that any future practices are communicated in advance and should it be necessary to implement this procedure, the school will contact families on the day.

As you will be aware from our newsletter and social media updates, we have been very impressed with our students' engagement in our new Rewards and Recognition framework. This framework is intended to recognise students for being 'On Track' in lessons, through the awarding of positive points and reward cards. Students can also receive 'On Track' Points for exceptional attendance and positive contributions to the community.

At the beginning of January, our students managed to reach the 100,000 'On Track' Points threshold. Since then the accumulation of points has continued, with our students now sitting on a whole school total of 146,106 points. To put this into some context, this total is now 100,000 points over the final total from the previous academic year.

In order to celebrate this achievement, we have consulted with the students on how they would like to be recognised and have organised events for the last day of term. On Friday 14 February during Period 5, students will spend time in tutor groups and will participate in a form competition. We will also be holding celebration assemblies throughout the day which include a showcase from Cirque de Silk.

As part of our celebrations there will be a non-school uniform day. Students will be able to wear their own clothes in exchange for a donation to the food bank. Recommended donations include- Tinned goods; Pasta; Rice; Long life juices, Long life milks; Biscuits or any other item with a long best before date. All donations will be collected on the front gate at the start of the day.

This is only the second non-school uniform day the school has had for a few years and we are keen to make sure that the students understand the expectations for the day in advance so the day is a success. Please read the information below carefully-

- This is a normal school day. Students will be expected to uphold our high expectations for behaviour and conduct in lessons and around the school site.
- Mobile phones must remain in bags and not seen and not heard.
- Students will be required to bring all equipment required for lessons, this includes PE kit if there is a timetabled lesson. We advise that students continue to bring school bags.
- Please ensure that students dress suitably for a day at school and for the time of year. This means that students should not wear crop tops and shorts and skirts should be appropriate length. Similarly, tops and shirts should be suitable for a school setting. This means there should be no inappropriate slogans or motifs that would be considered offensive or not age appropriate.
- Facial piercings are also not allowed and students will be asked to remove these.
- Students are welcome to continue to wear school uniforms if they feel more comfortable to do so.
- If the school has any concerns about a child's appearance, we will make contact with home and take appropriate steps to resolve the matter before the student attends lessons.

We hope that all families will follow these guidelines so that we have a positive day and students are celebrated for the positive start to the school year.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the day, please feel free to make contact.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Balkwill', written over a horizontal line.

Mr P Balkwill
Headteacher