

15<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

## RE: Principals Update – Term 3, Week 2

This week it was really lovely to welcome many of our Year 10 parents onto site. I always enjoy the buzz of the school hall when teachers, parents and students are talking about their learning and progress they are making. Many thanks to all parents who came along on the evening. Next Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January we look forward to welcoming Year 9 and their parents. It is not too late to make an appointment using our online system at the following link. [SchoolCloud - Oak Academy](#).

## Year 9 Options Information Evening

This week we invite you along to our Year 9 options information evening. This is the first of a number of events over the next couple of months, as Year 9 students prepare to make their option choices. The evening will involve a short presentation and then an opportunity to ask questions. The evening runs from 6pm to 7pm and I would encourage as many of your to attend as possible. There is no need to book.

## Flu vaccination offer to children in year 7 to year 9

A number of you will have signed up for your child, in Year 7 to 9, to have a flu vaccination on site. This takes place during the school day on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Information can be found at the following link. [Protect yourself against flu; Information for those in secondary school \(oak-academy.co.uk\)](#). If you have not already signed up it is too late on this occasion.

## Reading Assessments

All students in Years 7 to 9 will be taking a reading assessment across the next fortnight, in their normal reading lesson. It is really important that they take this seriously to ensure, where needed, students are given the correct reading interventions.

## Vaping

As Principal I remain concerned about the number of students now regularly vaping. As previously communicated, if staff believe a student has been vaping, or is carrying a vape, they will be asked to complete a voluntary search. If they are found to be carrying a vape this will be destroyed. I will not return vapes to students. If they refuse a search, they will be isolated until parent/carers are able to come to the school.

My concern is shared by many and can be seen in the article at the following link. [Health chiefs' concern over amount of children vaping in Shropshire | Shropshire Star](#). The medical board in the article expresses the concern that 'there are concerns that youngsters who have never smoked are taking up vaping – which is described in the report as **"not risk-free" and with its "long-term effects still unclear"**'. I would ask you to spend some time talking to your child about the unknown risks that vaping poses and would ask you to ensure they do not bring vapes to school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

## Achievement Points

As always I am proud of students earning achievement points. Below are the top three students in each year group since we returned from the Christmas break. A massive well done.

| Year 7   | Year 8  | Year 9   | Year 10   | Year 11   |
|----------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Milla K  | Alice A | Ben W    | Ellie M   | Evie W    |
| Judah A  | Logan T | Harry B  | William B | Madison S |
| Amelia W | Isaac H | Jesica A | Dillon L  | Lacey H   |

### Oak Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education

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**Detentions**

As with all schools there are times when students are asked to attend detentions after school. Currently much time is being wasted by admin staff in resetting detentions missed. Detentions are part of our behaviour policy and I thank you for supporting us in ensuring your child attends. Where students don't attend their final warning, they will be isolated for two lessons and a break time during the school day. We want to avoid this wherever possible.

**Parking outside the school**

We are growing increasingly concerned about the risks outside the front of the school, especially when the weather is bad. Cars continue to park on yellow lines when collecting their children from school. This is resulting in congestion and then people driving erratically as they grow frustrated by this. We have asked BCP to send traffic wardens down again and they have asked us to send registration plates of any cars parked on yellow lines. Please can I ask you to park either further down the road, on Poole Lane or Holloway Avenue.

As always many thanks for your support. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at [hayley.richley@oak-academy.co.uk](mailto:hayley.richley@oak-academy.co.uk).

Yours Sincerely,



Hayley Richley  
**Principal**

**Oak Academy**

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