

Dear all

My apologies that my weekly update is coming to you now rather than on Friday. It was a pretty hectic week with one thing or another, and time just ran away with me. I didn't want to interrupt your weekend, hence my message now.

Firstly, a huge thank you to those of you who continue to get in touch with us. As a senior team, we have met and spoken to lots of parents this week and it's been really useful to hear your views and feedback. We had some great feedback on what we can do to recognise our students who day in, day out do the right thing, as well as some feedback on how we can improve communication. We had introduced some measures to help make getting through to us on reception easier, but I know it is still a source of frustration for some of you. We will look into this over the next couple of weeks and I will update you on further actions we will take. I also wanted to get your feedback on the idea of Senior Leadership Team Drops Ins. These would be scheduled throughout the term (at varying times), and you would not need an appointment. Instead, you would be able to pop in and speak with us about anything on your mind. If this is something you think would be of value, please do drop us a quick message on Edulink so we can gauge interest.

As the weather turns much colder and wetter, we are starting to see an increase in the numbers of students bringing hoodies to school. As a reminder, hoodies are not allowed within the school. Any student who arrives to school with a hoodie, will be asked to remove it on entrance and we will keep it safe until the end of the day when it will be returned. Whilst students do remove their hoodie when asked at the door in the morning, they have a habit of being put back on throughout the school day! We would be grateful for your support with this, and the easiest thing is for students to not wear any hooded items as part of their uniform. If you would like to speak with us about support or for information on what is acceptable as a coat, please let us know.

Another theme this week has been charity work. Several children, staff members, and other local residents have approached me about supporting a number of causes. This is absolutely something we wish to do - particularly when the causes have direct links to our own school community. I would like each year group to choose a charity to support, as well as for the student council to identify school wide causes for this year. I then want to put this together on a calendar of when and how we will fund raise so that we can ensure it is spread throughout the year and is manageable. Of course, any fundraising is voluntary but I know the children are desperate for a mufti day so this will be a popular one, and I want you to have forewarning of this.

I had a fantastic time visiting Compass Primary School on Wednesday and catching up with the wonderful Mrs Fallowell. We both got very excited about some of the ways our school communities could work more closely together - watch this space!

Friday saw us remember in school the lives of those past and present who have given their lives to protect us. If you weren't aware, this year's remembrance theme is service, and we talked about how courage and selflessness are a central part of that. We reflected on how we could demonstrate those qualities in our day-to-day life in the KSA community as we look to support each other. I also shared my sister's story and some of the photos and letters she had sent whilst she was serving in Iraq in 2003.

Finally, Friday was also a very exciting day for Mrs Gant (Vice Principal) and I as we had our first choir rehearsal! We had a brilliant turn out from Year 7s and this week we are looking forward to our first rehearsals with our senior and staff choirs. All of this is in preparation for our first Carols by Candlelight evening which will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. More to follow!

Wishing you all a lovely week.

Mrs Giovanelli