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Principal: Jennifer Giovannelli

17th November 2024

Dear all

Thank You for Attending Year 9 Parents' Evening

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday. The positive feedback and engaging conversations were incredibly encouraging and reflect the strong partnerships we are building to support our students.

This evening marks the beginning of an important process as students start to consider their **GCSE options**. In the **New Year**, we will host an **information evening** to build on these discussions, ensuring each student makes informed and confident choices.

Mock Exams: A Vital Learning Experience

Our mock exams are coming to an end, and I want to emphasise the importance of treating these as valuable learning experiences. **They provide an opportunity to identify strengths, understand areas for improvement, and build confidence for formal exams.**

I've particularly enjoyed standardising and moderating our **English Language trial exam papers**, which has given me insight into how we can further support our students' development. It also reminded me how much I loved being an English teacher!

National School Meals Week Success


We've had an exciting week participating in the Brooke Weston Trust-wide "**Build the Ultimate Burger**" competition as part of National School Meals Week.

I'm delighted to announce that **Carys, one of our students, was the overall winner!** Her winning burger will be served across all Trust schools before Christmas—a fantastic achievement. You can see her winning design here.


BURGERS

ultimate Christmas burger

- plain bun food colour
- pen to get red stripes
- chicken pattie
- egg stuffing
- cranberry sauce
- stuffing




Bacon BBQ Stack



- Seeded bun
- Double beef burger patties
- tomato
- lettuce
- cheese
- BBQ sauce

The Santa's hat



- Toasted seeded bun
- beef patties
- tomato
- Turkey slices
- cranberry sauce
- stuffing for hat

Parental Feedback This Week

I've continued to meet with parents this week, which I always enjoy. These conversations are a wonderful opportunity to hear about what we're getting right but, most importantly, what we can do better.

Key Topics This Week

1. Homework:

- Homework is an important tool for consolidating learning, and we encourage students to engage with it. However, we recognise that it doesn't work equally well for all children.
- **While we celebrate and acknowledge the efforts of those who complete homework, it should not be a source of undue stress or result in sanctions for**

students who may find it more challenging. Additionally, students will not be penalised for not meeting a specific level or threshold.

- Our focus remains on supporting every student and helping them develop strategies that work for their individual needs. If you have concerns about homework, please contact your child's teachers.

2. **Rewards:**

- Some of you have highlighted the importance of consistency in how rewards, particularly K Points, are awarded. We agree!
- To address this, we've developed an **analytics tool to monitor and track how points are awarded across the school.** This transparency allows us to ensure that all students are recognised fairly for their efforts and achievements.
- We're also enhancing initiatives like **Hidden Gems**, which celebrate students who consistently demonstrate our core values, and are working to make our reward systems more inclusive and varied.

3. **Colder Weather:**

- We will clarify our uniform expectations later this week now that the weather is getting colder.
- We will, as always, take a pragmatic approach - for example, allowing children to wear their coats as they move around the building.

Thank you to all the parents who shared their thoughts this week—your feedback is invaluable in helping us improve.

AIB Feedback: A Positive Visit

Last week, I shared that we would be welcoming the Brooke Weston Trust Director of Education for a visit. I'm pleased to say it was a very positive experience.

Trust colleagues praised the **openness, transparency, and vulnerability** with which we shared our work.

A key focus of the visit was **English**, a subject we've identified as pivotal in driving improvements. Trust leaders were incredibly impressed by the English leadership team and their rapid actions to realise their vision: **"Unapologetically ambitious and unashamedly academic."** Their dedication and clarity of purpose are driving meaningful change, and we're excited to see the impact of their work.

Attendance was another focus of the visit. We know this is an area where we need to continue supporting our families, and I appreciate your partnership in helping us improve this vital aspect of school life.

Parent Recommendation: Northamptonshire Carers

This week, a parent kindly shared details of an organisation that may be of interest to some of you:

Northamptonshire Carers | 01933 677907, option 1 | [Northamptonshire Carers Association](https://www.northamptonshire-carers.org)

CARER'S ONE STOP SHOP



We are embarking on a roadshow of *One Stop Shops open to all Unpaid Carers* across Northamptonshire.

Do you look after somebody? Are you an Unpaid Carer?

Are you providing care or support to family members, friends or neighbours, who may be affected by a disability, physical or mental ill-health, frailty or substance misuse?

Date: Tuesday 10th December 2024

Venue: Corn Market Hall, Kettering, NN15 7QA

Time: 10am - 4pm

To find out more, contact us on:

01933 677907, Option 1

www.northamptonshire-carers.org

community@northamptonshire-carers.org



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Integrated Care Board

Funded by Accelerating Reform Fund, commissioned by NNC, WNC & ICB

If you feel this could be beneficial to your family, I encourage you to explore what they have to offer. Thank you to the parent for bringing this to our attention—it's always helpful to share resources that might support our community.

Introducing SLT Drop-In Sessions

We're always looking for ways to improve communication and strengthen relationships with parents. To that end, we're introducing **Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Drop-In Sessions**.

- **First Session:**
 - Date: Thursday 5th December
 - Time: 3:30 to 6:00 pm

No appointment is necessary—simply drop in to speak with a senior member of staff. If we can't resolve your query immediately, we'll ensure appropriate follow-up and next steps.

I look forward to updating you again next week.

Mrs Giovanelli