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Principal: Jennifer Giovanelli

18th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and productive week at school with just a relatively brief update from me tonight.

Social Time Strategy Update

I'm pleased to say that our **social time strategy** continues to work really well, with significant improvements in areas like litter management. Last week, we introduced our **Social Time Caught Doing the Right Thing (CDTRT)** ticket initiative, and I'm happy to report that students are collecting their tickets with enthusiasm, looking forward to exchanging them for rewards. It's been good to see an improved positive atmosphere during break and lunchtimes, reflecting the commitment to good behaviour at social time that we have been working hard to foster in recent weeks. There is still more to do and I will continue to keep you updated.

In addition to this, a group of **Year 8 students** has proposed a **social action project** focused on improving the environment, particularly targeting litter in and around the school. We are keen to support them in setting up this project and are proud of their initiative and desire to make a positive impact on the school community. I look forward to sharing updates with you as the project progresses. If your child has any idea of their own about how they can contribute positively to the school, I would love to hear from them.

Lunchtime Queue Behaviour and Wisepay Tip

On a similar positive note, we've also seen better behaviour in the lunchtime queues. I also wanted to share a great tip from one of our parents: using the **Wisepay** system, you can see what time your child has paid for their lunch, which gives a clear indication of how long they've had to wait.

We will be conducting an analysis to ensure the improvements we're seeing match the statistics, and we'll share these findings with you soon.

Follow-Up on Open Evening

Following the success of our **Open Evening** last week, where we welcomed over 800 visitors to the school, we've had the pleasure of welcoming several families into school during the day this week. Over 30 families visited to see the school in action, and it's been great to receive such positive feedback about the atmosphere and engagement of both students and staff.

If you are an existing parent who would like to organise a day time visit, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Welcoming New Staff

We are pleased to welcome two new staff members to our team:

- **Mrs. Murias** joins us as our **Education Welfare Officer for Attendance**. Her role is to support families and children in removing any barriers to regular attendance. Mrs Murias has significant experience in working in education in a number of roles and is looking forward to getting to know our families better over the coming months. If you feel your child needs support in this area, please don't hesitate to reach out. We know that attending school can be a challenge for some young people, and we're committed to working with you to ensure there's nothing holding them back from having a positive experience.
 - We're also pleased to welcome **Mrs. Still**, who joins us as the **Assistant Head of Year for Year 8**. Mrs Still is a very experienced pastoral member of staff who has worked in a number of secondary schools in similar roles. She will spend next week familiarising herself with our systems and routines and will be fully supporting our Year 8s after half term.
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Celebrating Black History Month

As part of our **Black History Month** celebrations, we have had some wonderful themed days in the restaurant, which have been thoroughly enjoyed by both students and staff.

Next Thursday, we are holding a **Celebratory Concert** featuring cultural music and dance to mark the end of the month. We'll be sharing photos and videos from the event on our social media platforms, so please keep an eye out for those!

Training Day Reminder

A quick reminder that **next Friday 25th October is a staff training day**, so students will not be expected in school.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Giovanelli