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Principal: Jennifer Giovannelli

9th November 2024

Dear all

Welcome back to another busy and meaningful term at KSA!

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### **New ID Cards and Lunch Accounts**

All students have now been issued new **ID cards**, which they must bring daily to access school facilities, including buying food in the restaurant. From now on, students will be required to use their ID cards to make purchases. We understand that some students may need help keeping track of their cards, so if your child would benefit from a lanyard or other supportive options, please let us know.

We also kindly ask parents to **regularly check and top up their child's lunch account**. If a student forgets their lunch or their balance is low, we will provide one lunch slip, but further slips won't be issued until the balance is repaid. Our team is contacting families to settle any unpaid balances from Term 1 lunch slips.

As always, if financial difficulties are impacting your child's lunch balance, please don't hesitate to reach out; we're here to support everyone in the KSA community.

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### **PSHE and Student Safety: Keeping Our Community Safe**

We're committed to providing students with the knowledge and skills to keep themselves and others safe. Based on **parent feedback**, many of you have expressed an interest in more **external speakers** addressing our students about potential dangers and safety measures in today's world.

- We regularly cover these important topics in our **PSHE lessons and curriculum**, and in response to your feedback, we are increasing opportunities for **guest speakers and external organisations** to engage with our students.
- Just before half-term, **PCSO Steve Cole** visited and delivered assemblies to all year groups to discuss online safety, emphasising the impact and legal implications of indecent images.

Our draft **PSHE policy**, which we will be sharing with you shortly for feedback, will outline further plans to incorporate external expertise and resources into our curriculum. We'd be very grateful for any input you can offer.

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## Ready, Respectful, Safe

This morning, I addressed all students via video in tutor time in response to a **recent spike in behaviour** that doesn't align with our values of being "**ready, respectful, and safe.**" Staff shared positive feedback, noting that students took the assembly very seriously, which is excellent to see.

At KSA, we're committed to helping every child to success, and we offer a **range of support options and approaches** that many mainstream secondary schools don't provide. We understand that school can be challenging, and we aim to provide children with **multiple ways to access help**. However, to keep our school safe and respectful, it's essential that students engage with this support and work with us.

Key Points Covered:

- **Physical Aggression:** Physical aggression is **not acceptable**, and watching, filming, or encouraging such behaviour is equally inappropriate. Every student has a responsibility to contribute to a safe environment.
- **Responsibility and Engagement:** We reminded students that **support works best when they engage with it**. We offer many resources and alternative approaches to help them succeed, and we need students to make use of these options and work with us.

We encourage parents to reinforce these messages at home, helping us ensure KSA remains a positive, supportive space for all children.

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## Year 11 and 13 Trial Exams

Our **Year 11 and Year 13** students have now begun their trial exams, a crucial opportunity for them to practice under real exam conditions. These trials are a time to:

- **Make mistakes, learn, and grow** through feedback.
- **Use all their time in the exam hall and try their hardest**, treating these exams as valuable preparation for their final assessments.

We understand that this can be a stressful time for many of our children (and you!) so please do reach out if you or your child needs any support at this time.

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## Remembrance Day Observance

On **Monday**, we will honour **Remembrance Day** with a **two-minute silence at 11:00 am**. A short commemorative video will be shown to students at 10:50 am, ending in time for the school day to continue smoothly. We ask all students to observe this moment with respect, and we invite staff and students to **wear poppies** in remembrance of those who served.

- **Poppies are available in the main office** for a donation to the Royal British Legion, supporting injured soldiers, veterans, and families.
  - Additionally, any students in **uniformed cadet organisations** are welcome to wear their cadet uniforms on this day.
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### **Academy Improvement Board Visit**

This **Monday**, we are pleased to welcome our **Director of Education** and colleagues from the Brooke Weston Trust for an **Academy Improvement Board visit**. They will review various aspects of our school, with a particular focus on our **English curriculum and the climate for learning in lessons**. This is a great opportunity for us to showcase our work and receive valuable feedback to help us improve further. We look forward to updating you on their insights next week.

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### **Year 9 Parents' Evening – Thursday 14th November 2024**

A reminder that our **Year 9 Parents' Evening is taking place this Thursday**. We encourage as many of you as possible to attend, as Year 9 is an important year with **GCSE option choices coming up in the new year**. This evening will provide a valuable opportunity to receive feedback from your child's teachers, helping to inform and guide these upcoming choices. Your support in this process is crucial to ensure your child is well-prepared and confident as they enter this next stage of their education journey.

### **Upcoming Dates for Your Diary**

- **Remembrance Day Observance** – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November
- **Academy Improvement Board Visit** – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November
- **Year 9 Parents' Evening** – Thursday 14th November
- **Post 16 Open Evening** – Thursday 28th November at 6pm
- **Christmas Concert** – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support. Please reach out if there's anything you need—we're here to help.

Mrs Giovanelli