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Principal: Jennifer Giovanelli

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Dear all

It's been another busy and exciting week at KSA as we continue working hard to ensure all students are supported to achieve their best and enjoy the many opportunities on offer.

A Midsummer Night's Dream – Final Preparations!

Final preparations are underway for our forthcoming production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*!

- **Performance Date:** Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th February
- **Tickets:** Available for purchase now through Eventbrite – [buy tickets](#)

Tickets are selling fast, so make sure you don't miss out! We can't wait to see our talented students take the stage and bring this Shakespearean classic to life.

School Improvement Partner Visit

This week, we were pleased to welcome our School Improvement Partner, who works with us to help further our goals for excellence in education.

Key Focus Areas:

- **Classroom Achievement:** He focused on how we ensure all students are achieving their potential in the classroom.
- **Student Voice:** He met with a group of 10 students from across all year groups to hear about their experiences.
- **Behaviour for Learning:** The School Improvement Partner praised the very good behaviour he observed in lessons, noting the calm and focused learning environment in classrooms. He agreed with us that our next steps involve ensuring all students are actively participating and engaging fully with their learning.

We recognise that engagement isn't just about verbal contributions; there are many ways for students to participate meaningfully. For example, we use strategies like mini whiteboards and other total participation techniques to ensure every child has the opportunity to contribute confidently. These approaches will continue to be a focus as we work to embed strong behaviour for learning across all classrooms.

Post 16 Curriculum Updates

I also met with Miss Turner and Miss Davies, our Assistant Principals with responsibility for the timetable and sixth form, to review our Post 16 curriculum offer.

Key Updates:

- **Year 11 Interviews:** Miss Davies will be holding interviews with all our Year 11s over the next couple of weeks to discuss their next steps, offer advice, and provide guidance.
- **Broadened Curriculum:** This year, we've expanded our offer to include:
 - More vocational courses.
 - Offer courses in Economics and Performing Arts (in response to student voice).

As always, courses will run subject to numbers, but we are committed to ensuring an inclusive and diverse curriculum offer at Post 16.

Uniform and PE Kit

We really value and need your support when it comes to uniform. The move to students wearing PE kit on days when they have PE was introduced in response to parent and student feedback. However, we are starting to notice an increasing number of students wearing heavily branded or logoed hoodies.

PE Kit Guidelines:

- Hoodies must be either the **official KSA hoodie** or **plain black**.
- Hoodies should only be worn on PE days.

To minimise disruption to learning:

- Students arriving with an inappropriate hoodie will be given a plain one from our **uniform boot room**.
- Please help us by ensuring students follow this policy to avoid unnecessary negative interactions.

School Shoes:

- We allow **plain black trainers** as part of the uniform, unlike many other schools.
- Trainers that don't meet this standard will also need to be swapped.

We understand that uniform can present challenges for some students, particularly those with sensory sensitivities. Many of you have praised our flexible and adaptable approach, and we will be reaching out this week to families who may need additional support or adaptations to ensure consistency across the school.

PSHE Highlights

This week, I had the pleasure of visiting several PSHE lessons across year groups. It was inspiring to see students engaging in mature and meaningful discussions on topics such as managing stress, mental health, body image, and consent.

We use *Life Lessons* resources, which include expert insights and contributions from young people, to support these important conversations. We're always happy to share our resources and topics with you so please do contact your child's form tutor if you would like more detail.

Academy Improvement Board (AIB) Meeting

Next week, we welcome our **Academy Improvement Board (AIB)**, which includes:

- Our Director of Education and other Brooke Weston Trust colleagues.
- Representatives from the governing body.

The AIB is a key part of our ongoing commitment to improvement and ensures we are meeting our targets in areas like:

- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Student Achievement

Each visit also focuses on a specific subject. This time, the spotlight is on **science**. This allows us to ensure the highest standards across all subjects, following earlier reviews of English and maths. We will share updates on the outcomes of this visit in an upcoming newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and I hope you have a good week.

Mrs Giovanelli