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Dear Parent/Carer

Acting Rector's Weekly Update 11-2-16

I am pleased to report a settled week as pupils and staff embark on what I hope is a restful mid-term break. The dark mornings will soon be behind us and there will be a few bright smiles when alarm clocks are ignored in the morning. This week, a change to the normal assembly pattern ensured S3 got their work experience launch and all S1 engaged with Energiser workshops. For S2 and S4, they had the pleasure of listening to my thoughts on the importance of respecting views of other people. On Tuesday evening, we welcomed S3, S4 and S5 parents to our curriculum information event and posted the slides on the website. The clear message was that the Guidance Teachers and wider teaching staff are on hand to support pupils through the option process.

As ever, there have been some stand out moments this week. Firstly, listening to Kathleen's approach to pupil crowd management in Mitchell's was quite inspiring. I am sure the rapport she has built up with school diners is down to her positive perception of our young people. Back in school, junior pupils' participation in lessons on dictatorships and the Earth's core should be commended. Furthermore, I must recognise the aspiration of the technical faculty as S1 and S2 pupils are challenged to design, produce and market products of interest. Gone are the days of the pencil case and wind vane as pupils are completing perspective drawings, building electric model aircraft and laminating intricate packaging. Finally, I was pleased to speak with 5 parents regarding a planned mock election. With the voting age being dropped to 16, many of our pupils will be voting for the first time this summer. As a bit of fun but also raising awareness, I am pleased to mention our five S2 candidates who will deliver speeches and manifestos at assemblies in future. Representing their class and each of the 5 parties, we say well done to Mikey S, Alexander M, Louise R, Jamie M and Rhiannon N.

Next week, pupils do not return until Thursday. For staff, many will be at subject specific training on Tuesday and on Wednesday will be working on restorative practices to support positive behaviour. Before I head for my long weekend, I am pleased to say that I have managed to resolve Italy and Paris payments. I would also remind parents of the drop-in sessions on a Wednesday evening and to anyone who missed the curriculum evening reminder in last week's update, I am happy to talk through these slides again in future.

To all our parents, pupils and staff, have a very relaxing long weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Graeme Cowie
Acting Rector

Maria Walker, Director of Education and Children's Services