

October 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to congratulate all of our students that have successfully completed the expedition section of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. These students demonstrated perseverance, determination and unwavering teamwork, in what has been some quite challenging weather conditions. I would also like to thank all the parents that have supported the trip – your encouragement and support is appreciated. There have been some fantastic memories made, and my notable highlights include one group walking round a field multiple times, having taken the advice of ‘keep left’ very literally! Another group believing that they had been sent a dog to follow back to camp...only to find out it was a farmer’s dog and they then had to walk the dog back, doubling the amount of walking they had to do! My final highlight is of one group serving up what can only be described as a three-course gourmet meal, while the other groups survived on pasta and rice! There will no doubt be great individual stories of perseverance, and of friendships made and strengthened on each expedition. It has been my absolute pleasure to witness these success stories. Now, the hard work of completing the volunteering and skills section of their award begins – during form time over the remainder of the year, students will be focusing on meeting the criteria of these assessment areas.

I would also like to congratulate our Year 10 students that performed in the annual Music Masters competition. As always, I am astounded at the musical talent so many of our students have – I would like to congratulate Keira Carlton for winning the ‘Upper School Vocalist’ Award, and to Troy Edge for winning first place in the ‘Instrumentalist’ Award. A fantastic achievement – well done to them both, and to all of those that took part.

I would also like to thank the large number of Year 10 students that voluntarily offered their services during our Open Evening on Thursday 10th October, either leading a tour or supporting department areas – I was pleased to see so many of our students representing their school with pride.

In addition to completing their supervisory lunch duties, our Year 10 Prefects have been working hard preparing several whole school projects. They are looking forward to pitching their ideas to our Senior Leadership Team; the passion and determination they continue to show, and the desire to build on the Giles community is exceptional.

Our Pastoral curriculum this term has focused on Mental Health & Wellbeing: This unit includes learning about strategies for coping with challenging periods of time, including change and grief. Students have explored social anxiety, and the impact technology is having on mental health. Sessions have included:

1. Managing tough times: change, grief and bereavement
2. Suicide
3. Managing Social Anxiety
4. Social Media & Self-Esteem
5. Screen Time

Next term focuses on ‘Living Responsibly’ and includes learning about how to become a responsible citizen, debating topical social issues such as.

1. Managing time effectively
2. Living sustainably
3. Homelessness
4. Hate Crime
5. Tattoos and Piercings
6. Binge Drinking

A new method is being used throughout the school to aid the memory to retrieve information across all subjects, proven use of Knowledge Organisers in other secondary schools have seen students’ progress quicker and help performance in examinations. All students will be given a Knowledge Organiser which will have memory aids and mind maps for each subject your child studies which will support learning key facts

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and information for all areas of the curriculum. In addition to this students will be given a Knowledge Organiser book (The K.O Book). The one book will be used for all subjects and the expectation will be that it is used within lessons when directed and at home in order to aid revision and self-quizzing. A K.O homework timetable has been created so you as a parent/carer can support your child in completing revision tasks on the specified days. The completion of this homework will be checked in tutor time by tutors. Further information to follow during next term.

Students will return to school on Monday 28th October 2019, on Week B.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mrs Stacey Dyer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs Stacey Dyer
Head of Year 10