

Tuesday 24th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy half term everyone and what an exceptional half term it has been. It is hard to believe eight weeks have already passed us by. Watch out for our Autumn term newsletter this will feature more details, stories and pictures of everything we have been up to.

I have two personal highlights from the last half term. October has become a significant month for our school, a month in which we explore and celebrate the diverse fabric of our school and our community underpinned by Black History Month. The month has culminated in the amazing Stronger Together Community Festival part 2. My other personal highlight was going out with all the year 7s to Borreaton Park on the weekend residential. I am not sure who had more fun, them or me.

We return on Monday 6th November, to a busy schedule of learning and celebration. Children in Need will be celebrated on Friday 17th November, and we will also celebrate with those in our community celebrating Diwali, a moment of personal importance to me. We also enter a busy period of mock exams for year 11. I would remind you that key dates are always on our website, including the year 11 progress evening on 23rd November and the school production which opens on Tuesday 28th November (get your tickets early to avoid disappointment).

Attendance

We often write to you about attendance. There has been a post-Covid decline in school attendance, with more families taking children out of school during term time. Excellent attendance is crucial to ensure your child achieves their best in school. Our own in school data indicates that children who have an attendance of 94% and less are likely to achieve over a grade below their counterparts. A child loses 5 hours of learning each day they are absent and this increases gaps in knowledge that does impact on a child's end results and outcomes. The recent academic results that have been published for all schools across the country highlight that we have the 8th best progress results, when the selective and free schools are removed. This indicates that as a school we really are able to support students to achieve the best possible results, however, we do need your children to be in school each and every day.

% Attendance	Progress	
	Maths	English
>85%	-0.52	-0.22
85%-89%	0.09	0.23
90%-94%	0.35	0.65
95%-96%	0.66	0.8
97%+	0.59	1.14

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Relationships and Sex Education

Earlier this half term, you will have received a letter about TfL (Toolkit for Life). One of the elements of TfL is our PSHE and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) curriculum. We are aware that this is an area of the curriculum that can raise questions for parents/carers, and, as such, we are hoping to start a parents' group that would meet termly (usually online) to discuss what is delivered in these lessons. If you would like to be involved, please send your expression of interest to the school enquiry email address marked **RSE parent group FAO Mrs Lee**. Mrs Lee will then contact parents/carers directly.

School policies

Our website is always up to date with all our school policies; however, I would like to bring your attention to a newly published guide for parents from the DfE regarding behaviour and exclusions which can be found on this link [A guide for parents on school behaviour and exclusion - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The government has also given guidance to school leaders on the use of mobile phones in school. I welcome this guidance and the support the government has offered on the matter of mobile phones in schools. As you will know our school policy has been and remains a zero-tolerance approach to mobile phones. No mobile phone should be seen in the school building. We allow students to message their families in the morning before the start of the school day, in case of emergency they can ask an adult, and then at the end of the day, but not in the building and during school hours.

Governance

I would like to welcome Deborah James, our newly co-opted governor to our governing body. Deborah comes with extensive school leadership experience and experience of leading Ofsted inspections and will provide critical challenge, support and guidance to us as a school. After half term we will be announcing parent elections so please do ensure you look out for that exciting opportunity.

HAPPY, SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

[Stronger Together | Letters Home \(queensbridge.bham.sch.uk\)](#)

OFSTED Inspection

You will all be aware we had an inspection by Ofsted on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th of October. As you can appreciate, the landscape in our country, city and in school has changed considerably in the last decade since we were last inspected. This new framework is very different to the framework of 10 years ago and offers more rigour and challenge and looks in greater detail at the quality of education that we provide for our children. I look forward to being able to send you all a copy of the report in November, once the outcome has been approved and agreed upon.

As a result of the report, I would like the opportunity to give staff more detailed feedback and therefore, will be closing school early on Friday 27th October. We will do an extended service at breaktime for students who wish to eat a hot dinner and we will begin dismissing students

from 12:25pm, starting with year 7 and 8, up to 12:40 dismissing older children last. We will send a reminder text towards the end of the week.

Have a wonderful half term holiday.

Yours sincerely



Mr Singh
Headteacher

Important Dates for the Autumn Term		
Monday 30 th October to Friday 3 rd November 2023		Half Term Holiday: School closed
Thursday 9 th November 2023	6pm	Ski Trip Parents Information Evening
Thursday 23 rd November 2023	4:45pm to 7:15pm	Yr11 Progress Evening (online)
Friday 24 th November 2023	School Closed	TTD
Tuesday 28 th November 2023	7pm	School production
Monday 4 th to Friday 15 th December 2023		Yr11 Mock Exams
Monday 25 th to Friday 5 th January 2024		Christmas Holiday: School closed
<i>You can always access the school calendar on the website; look under parents/school calendar.</i>		