

RAPHAEL NEWSLETTER

February 10th 2012

Dear Parents

We have now reached the mid point of the academic year. It is always amazing how quickly time passes, especially for our S11 students who are rapidly approaching the culmination of their GCSE courses!

A few pieces of news and information as we break for half term.

Summer GCSE timetables and information

I will be issuing this straight after Half Term. Study leave for S11 will begin on Monday May 7th for one week, with GCSE exams running from Monday 14th May to Monday 18th June inclusive.

GCSE results November series

S10 achieved an excellent set of results in their first Maths GCSE module which they sat in November; all pupils comfortably attained grade C or above, with over half the grades awarded being A or A*. Well done!

Premises work

We have begun to improve our playground and outdoor facilities, beginning with the provision of some colourful playground surface games for the Primary Department. There are further developments in store and we are looking forward to enjoying break times in our improved environment.

Audio visual ICT improvements

I am very pleased to tell you that we are awaiting delivery of a further interactive white board, to be installed in the English classroom. This will enable the staff to enhance the learning experiences of the pupils and provide an opportunity for varied teaching approaches.

Summer dresses and uniform

I have written to all Primary parents to inform them of a change of style to our Summer dress. A sample dress is hanging outside the office. As soon as I hear from our uniform shop, I will advise you of the fitting service they are offering us. Thank you to the Primary parents for ensuring their children look smart in the winter by ensuring that they have the correct coats, hats and scarves. Please could Senior parents ensure that their children are wearing plain black outerwear to school at all times.

Charity work

At the time of writing, the Primary department are busy organising their charity day to be held on Friday 10th February. I know it will be a great success, and look forward to telling you how much we raised. We welcomed in two volunteer representatives from "Mark Mc Carthy's Magic Moments" to talk to the pupils during assembly about their voluntary work, and I do hope that it inspired the pupils to aim to raise as much money as possible for such a worthy cause.

Pupil achievements

The swimming staff at Harold Hill pool have formally congratulated our Junior pupils on both their achievements and behaviour at swimming this year. The staff have said that this cohort was the best they have ever had from Raphael, and by the number of badges and certificates I award during assembly each week, they must be right! Many congratulations to our Junior swimmers. I do hope they will continue to swim regularly through the year to ensure their levels of ability and confidence remain high before they resume swimming in September. Their current swimming slot on a Wednesday will now be used as an extra PE lesson.

Special congratulation to Sam Little in J5 who has been selected for the Essex swimming squad.

I would also like to congratulate Elise Adeyemo in P2 who has been selected for the Essex Gymnastics squad - a great achievement at such a young age! Maybe we have a couple of future Olympians here.....

Parking

I wrote to you all last week on the subject of considerate and indeed legal parking around the school and I do hope that the situation will improve. This week I received a letter stating that over half term the parking in Clifton Road and some of Park Lane will become controlled parking for residents, so please be mindful where you park on our return on 20th February.

Reports and Assessments

There are level assessments issued today for all pupils in S7 – S10, and interim reports for all Primary pupils. S11 will receive their final full report at the end of term. To ensure safe receipt of your child's report or assessment, please complete the form at the back of the document and return it to your child's form teacher. There is also space for any comments you may like to make which I will be happy to answer on receipt.

Lunches and snacks

Please could all Primary parents remember that any snacks sent in for morning break must be healthy snacks – no biscuits, crisps or confectionary.

Medicines in school

Please note that it is school policy that we do not administer any medicines in school apart from those prescribed for long term conditions such as asthma, or in absolute extreme emergencies for pain relief with the express permission of parents. I must remind you that if your child is unwell, or has not completely recovered from illness, they are not sent to school. Thank you.

Diary dates

Our Prize Giving evening scheduled for Thursday 28th June is being rescheduled due to the unavailability of the URC hall. I will inform you once a new date is confirmed. Coming up.....

Thursday 23rd February – P1 to the Museum of Childhood

Tuesday 28th February – S10/S11 GCSE Art students to London

Thursday March 1st - World Book Day, book fair in school all week

Wednesday March 7th - Open Working Afternoon for prospective parents

Thursday March 8th - J5/6 to Maritime Museum, Reception to Tole Haven pottery studio

Wednesday March 21st – S9 Parents' Consultations re: GCSE options

Thursday March 22nd – J3/4 to Globe Theatre, S10/S11 Drama visit to Queen's Theatre

Wednesday March 28th – S8/S9 History trip to the Imperial War Museum

Friday March 30th – End of Term

A very busy second half of term!

On behalf of the staff, may I wish you an enjoyable half term break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 20th February.

Kind Regards

Mrs J Lawrence
Headmistress