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To All Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers

This is a different letter to my last one! It is largely business, about dates and times.

First, please find enclosed the full list of dates for next year. This includes the early closes for staff training. These sessions will occur on *one Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday* per half term. On these days students will leave school at 14.15.

Some parents asked me to look at altering the plan for years 9-11. Although it seems counterintuitive, years 9, 10 and 11 will have 4 lessons, lunchtime and then registration before being allowed to go home. We think this is the least disruptive way of managing the pilot, (which we will, of course, review).

There are also two dates **before the summer** when school will finish early for students:

On **Friday 7 July**, we will be celebrating with our Year 11 and Year 13 students during the afternoon and evening in our special leaving ceremonies. Therefore, Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 will be finishing school at **1.15pm**, after lunch.

**Friday 21 July** is the last day of the year. Students will finish school at **12.30 pm** after a big assembly. There will be no lunch this day; free school meals students will be able to collect their lunch from the canteen at break.

**Second**, we are having to increase our school meal prices. From September it will be £2.30 for a standard school meal of 2 courses. In terms of choice and nutritional value we are confident that this is still very good value for money!

If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals, please ask at reception for details on how to apply, or you can apply on-line via this link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

**Third, Holiday Learning Guidance - particularly for year 10!** Mr Tomlin writes.....

There is plenty of research detailing that student learning can actually go backwards over the long summer break, particularly in maths. Whilst it is important that students do get a good rest ready for the year ahead, it is also vital that they keep their brains ticking over.

*inquisitive • collaborative • persistent • disciplined • imaginative*

When year 10 return in September, there will only be 8 months of school before their final GCSE exams begin, so it is really important they are fully prepared. With this in mind, I have asked subject areas to set them a small amount of home learning over the summer period and would ask that you support your child to do this gradually over the six weeks rather than at the last minute. This should mean they come back to school feeling confident about their final months. I have also recommended to students that, as well as avoiding too many computer games, phones, tablets and doing their subject home learning, they also try to do the following five things:

1. Read at least one book
2. Watch a GCSE pod a day for each subject in areas they find difficult
3. Do a little maths every day i.e. Mathswatch
4. Write something every week
5. Do something active i.e. visit somewhere new, walks, sports etc.

I appreciate that encouraging teenagers to work in their holiday is a challenge, steady work is less stressful and more effective than panic! If they need any encouragement, you could remind them that they will finish their GCSEs before the end of June next year and will have an extra month summer holiday as a reward!

I hope you have a lovely summer when it comes, and that a bit of heat returns to us. School starts again for all students on **Wednesday 6 September at 8.40am.**

Thank you for your continued support, and particularly for the many messages of support I had after my last letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Carolyn Roberts  
Head