

## Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 15 December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Here are the latest school messages and updates for your information.

| MESSAGES |              |   |
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| School   | Whole School | Please find <a href="#">letter</a> from Mr Humphreys with regards to SKYFund. Thank you to those who have made contributions, this is gratefully received. We have been able to set up this on ParentPay if you would like to also donate that way.   |
| School   | Whole school | <b>Online Safety and Gaming</b><br>For support with gaming, please see this useful article from <a href="#">Young Minds</a>   |
| School   | Whole school | <b>Free School Meals</b><br>If you think you are entitled to claim a free school meal benefit because of your income or circumstances it's essential you apply. For each eligible child, the school receives funding for the next six years, even if their parents go back to full-time paid work. You can apply to North Somerset <a href="#">here</a> . If you have any queries or would like the school to support you with your application please contact reception.   |
| School   | Whole school | <b>Free School Meals</b><br>If your child is entitled to a free school meal they can receive breakfast in the canteen before 8.30. They will be able to choose from the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 pieces of toast with jam</li> <li>• fresh fruit with a juice drink</li> <li>• porridge with honey/syrup with a juice drink</li> <li>• cereal with milk</li> <li>• 1 crumpet with jam.</li> </ul>  |
| School   | Whole school | All <b>instrumental lessons</b> and <b>trailblazers lessons</b> will re-start week beginning <b>Monday 8th January 2024</b> .   |
| Library  | Whole school | Congratulations to our festive book tree competition winners, Alex & Baptiste both in 7T, and Miss McInerney, the staff winner. All 3 guessed the actual number exactly - and if you're wondering, there were 106!  |
| Finance  | Whole school | <b>Lunch accounts</b><br>We are experiencing a significant increase in the number of students having to visit the Finance Office as they do not have enough money on their lunch accounts. Parentpay allows you to set a reminder to top up when the balance falls below a certain amount.<br><br>To set an alert go to 'Communication', 'Alert Settings', 'Balance Alerts'. Set a threshold amount (say £5) and tick the email box. You will then be emailed a low balance alert when your child's lunch account falls below £5. |
| Finance  | Whole School | <b>Parentpay One-Click Payments (Bank Transfer)</b><br>Parentpay is encouraging parents to use this payment method rather than card payment. As a school we do not like this as potentially a transaction can fail several days later causing lunch accounts to go overdrawn. The direct debits take 3 working days to set up before a payment should be attempted. The transaction can then take another 4 days to show on your bank statement. We would recommend continuing with card payment as these                         |

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|                  |                            | transactions are pre-authorised. This can be done by selecting the 'Add To Basket' button and then 'Other Payment Method' button.   |
| Mrs Ivey         | Year 8                     | Year 8 students will be completing formal assessments in biology, chemistry and physics at the start of next term on 3/01/24. Teachers will be setting homework on class charts to help students revise for these assessments. Please ensure that your child completes this homework.   |
| Mrs Ivey         | Year 9                     | Year 9 students will be completing their end of key stage three examination on 10/01/24. Teachers have set homework on class charts to help students revise for these assessments. Please ensure that your child completes this homework.   |
| Mrs Crompton     | Year 10                    | <b>Progress Evening</b><br>Year 10 progress evening is on 10 January, please see letter <a href="#">here</a> for details of when the booking system will open.  |
| Mrs Weatherson   | Year 10 - GCSE photography | We will be looking at portrait photography next term and so there are two fun independent learning projects for students to experiment with over the Christmas break - please do encourage and support the students with taking their photographs of family and friends where possible. All details are on classcharts.   |
| Mr Francis-Black | Year 10 - Work Experience  | <p>Congratulations to the 23 Students that have secured a WEX placement! WEX takes place on <b>1st - 5th July</b>.<br/>Deadline to find a placement is <b>19th February</b>.</p> <p><b>Many places are already becoming full. Please encourage your child to start the search.</b></p> <p>All information including an employers database, past WOW's, template email and the Unifrog process is located in the Work Experience Google Classroom that all Year 10 students have been given access to.</p> <p>For more WEX information, please read through <a href="#">this letter</a> sent home during Term 1 or head to the <a href="#">school website</a>.</p> <p>This week's <a href="#">WOW!</a> (WEX Opportunity of the Week)</p> <p>If you have any questions regarding work experience, please contact me on <a href="mailto:skworkexperience@skdrive.org">skworkexperience@skdrive.org</a></p> |
| Mrs Weatherson   | Year 11 GCSE photography   | Students will be asked to submit their final ELP on the first day back after the Christmas holidays - please do encourage them to work on their project and complete it as much as possible. Student should have written personalised targets.  |

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| Mrs Weatherson | Year 13                   | We have January mock exams - please encourage students to revise and prepare over the Christmas holidays.  |
|                | Year 12 - Work Experience | <p>Congratulations to the 12 Students that have secured a WEX placement!</p> <p>WEX takes place on <b>17th - 21st June</b><br/>Deadline to find a placement is <b>19th February 2024.</b></p> <p><b>Many places are already becoming full. Please encourage your child to start the search.</b></p> <p>All information including an employers database, past WOW's, template email and the Unifrog process is located in the Work Experience Google Classroom that all Year 12 students have been given access to.</p> <p>For more WEX information, please read through <a href="#">this letter</a> sent home during Term 1 or head to the <a href="#">school website</a>.</p> <p>This week's <a href="#">WOW!</a> (WEX Opportunity of the Week)</p> <p>If you have any questions regarding work experience, please contact me on <a href="mailto:skworkexperience@skdrive.org">skworkexperience@skdrive.org</a></p> |

**LETTERS** - click [here](#) to see all letters

**SPORT** - click [here](#) to see all updates via our X (formally Twitter) page

**UPCOMING EVENTS** - click [here](#) to see all upcoming events

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 1 Jan  | Bank holiday  |
| 2 Jan  | Inset day   |
| 3 Jan  | Start of term 3   |
| 3 Jan  | 1400-1500 Y12, Y13 Student Finance Talk from Bath University, 6th form common room              |
| 8 Jan  | Y12, &13 Revision day   |
| 10 Jan | 1600-1900 Y10 progress evening  |
| 11 Jan | 0900-1220 Y9 Art Workshop with local artist Sanni Pyhaenniska, Art Dept                         |
| 17 Jan | 1500-1630 Y11, Y12, Y13 Life drawing workshop for A level/GCSE art students , Art Dept, room 13 |
| 22 Jan | 0830-1000 Coffee with the Headteacher   |
| 24 Jan | 1600-1900 Y11 progress evening  |
| 30 Jan | 1220-1320 Y10 AA Speaker for Society and Culture 1220-1320, LT                                  |
| 30 Jan | All day Y8 HPV vaccinations   |

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| 30 Jan   | 1100-1445 Y11 Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Concert, St Michael's centre              |
| 2 Feb    | Y9 T G Gray - Aircraft Challenge STEM Day, LT  |
| 5-8 Feb  | Residential Y12 trip to Slapton Ley, Devon   |
| 7 Feb    | 0900-1000 10B Y10 business students - UWE Economics workshop, room 61<br>1120-1220 10A |
| 7 Feb    | 1700-1900 Y9 Options Evening   |
| 9 Feb    | End of term  |
| 9-17 Feb | Y7-10 Ski trip Folgaria, Italy (over 1/2 term)   |