

11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Secondary Week Ending 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Community,

It has been a wonderful few weeks where we have seen great student success and involvement in activities both in and out of school. We were fortunate enough to re-launch of Duke of Edinburgh trips, where a group of Year 12/13 students camped over in Fujairah, working on their bronze or silver award. We are really looking forward to opening up this fantastic award to more students next academic year.

### Preparing students

We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to send five students to the Emirates Literature Festival on Thursday last week – Nikolas Kash, Adeola Salisu, Hla Sousa, Tanivi Rajesh, and Isabelle Jame attended Emirates Airlines Festival of Literature sessions titled 'Careers of the Future'. They experienced an inspiring session aimed at young people to help them make informed decisions about their careers. The panelists discussed the importance of building skills versus a focus on degrees, STEM engagement and empowering the next generation of regional environmental leaders in shaping their future.



We ran a *University Fair* on Tuesday last week where ten key medical and dentistry universities for our aspiring students in Years 11 and 12. Our students asked the university Deans fantastic questions and were very organised in their way of thinking about their future and next steps. We are excited about continuing to prepare our students for further study and the world of work.

Continuing with the theme of preparing our students, this week we held our Year 11 Marketplace where students in Year 11 had the opportunity to meet with current A-Level/BTEC students to discuss their subjects ahead of them making their own Post-16 options. Year 9 students experienced something similar last term, and are now in the process of selecting their GCSE option subjects and having their GCSE interviews with senior leaders.

### Student Wellbeing

Each week our Senior Leaders meet with a group of students from the Prep and Senior schools. During this time, we encourage students to share their feelings and feedback about life at Metropole.

Some of the positive student feedback shared already:

*"I absolutely love having a variety of different teachers in secondary, it makes my days exciting and I really appreciate all of the support"*

Students are also encouraged to suggest areas for development. This week, the students shared:

*"It would be good if during breaktime we had an opportunity to go somewhere a little more relaxing...especially if we need time to unwind or have a chance to talk"*

The Wellbeing team are now looking at the building utilisation plans so that we can create a 'Wellbeing Room' for students to access at breaktimes. We will fill the room with comfortable seating, board games, books, puzzles and relaxing background music! We encourage all students to speak to their Class Student Council Rep or Lead Teacher at any time should they have any feedback to share with us.



EDUCATION

We see **genius** in every child

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## Key Messgaes

- **Study Leave:** Year 12 and 13 students will be on study leave 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February. Students will have the option to come into school to revise from the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre if they prefer, but we will need to know this in advance for bus and fire evacuation purposes. There will be no Year 11 study leave.
- **Canteen & tuck shop:** The school canteen is now open at lunchtimes for students to purchase food. The tuck shop is open at lunchtimes to Year 12 and 13 students.
- **Buses on Fridays:** Students will be released from lessons at 11:45am on Fridays so that their bus can leave on time. Students must move quickly to their bus, as the drivers cannot wait around due to needing to make Friday prayers. Where students miss their bus, parents will be asked to arrange collection of their son/daughter.
- **Grey PE jackets:** The Metropole PE jackets (grey style ones) are fine for students to wear to and from school, plus during outside break and lunch. These need to be removed when students are in classrooms. If students are cold in class, they should wear the school cardigan/jumper (Prep) or school blazer (Seniors). All Senior students should have a blazer as part of their uniform.

## Upcoming Key Dates

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Half-term break
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Students return to school
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11, 12, 13 Mock Exams
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> – Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 12 and 13 study leave
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Happy Meet – invite to follow
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Secondary PSHE drop-down day (wellbeing & mental health)
Wenesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	International Day
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	12:30pm finish for student – staff training

As always, I welcome your feedback - about this letter, or any aspect of your child's experience with us:  
[d.aschettino\\_mts@gemsedu.com](mailto:d.aschettino_mts@gemsedu.com)

I wish you a wonderful half-term break and I look forward to welcoming back our students on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Kind regards,



**Daniella Aschettino**  
Secondary Headteacher



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