

Friday 14th October 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Secondary Week Ending 14th October 2022

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of half-term one, and what an amazing start to the new academic year it has been! Thank you to the community for making this busy, yet exciting half-term such a great one, and for your ongoing support. Here are some highlights from the term so far:

- Excellent GCSE and A-Level results (top 8 in GEMS for GCSE and top 3 for A-Levels!)
- Business and Media Studies students visited Roasters coffee shop to sign-up for work experience with company 'VIP Sneakers'
- Food Tech students cooked with pizza extraordinaire Carmine de Michele at Larte restaurant
- Opening of the new Sixth Form social and study areas
- Swim gala and launch of the 2022/2023 Mustangs!
- Platinum Jubilee Scholarship success for Sofia Vidal and Syeda Eman Hussain

School trips

It really is fantastic to have school trips up and running again, with our first residential trip taking place this week for 59 of the Year 7 students. Students took part in the Eco-Venture two-day trip where they brought the Active School to life. They expanded their friendship groups, explored a new world of learning, developed their independence, and challenged themselves physically. Thank you to Mr. Traynor, Ms. White, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Gannon, Ms. Norris, and Ms. McKechnie who accompanied our students to ensure they were able to have a fabulous time! Year 8s will experience the same after the break, which we hope they will enjoy equally as much.



Reporting on your child's progress

Feedback from some parents last year suggested we need to do more to ensure parents are better informed of their child's progress. You will see from the reporting letter sent to you on Wednesday this week (and attached here again) that we have improved the process and content of reports so you have a deeper understanding of how your child is achieving at school. The half-term report gives you a snap-shot of your child's starting point and their end of year target, and throughout the year this reporting picture will become more and more complete.

Student wellbeing

Student wellbeing remains at the center of all that we do, and we have been considering initiatives to ensure student wellbeing continues to be a focus. This half-term we launched our student Happiness Room where students can visit at lunchtimes. Here, they socialise, play games and have some time away from their device. Also, last Tuesday, we were fortunate enough to be visited by Clare Gadsby (leading educational consultant, trainer and author with a wealth of experience in motivation strategies) who spent time with our Year 11 students to share 'radical revision' techniques to help prepare them for their upcoming mock examinations.

Attendance

You will have noticed in the weekly Community Catch-Up that we have been sharing success stories relating to class attendance. Our target as a school is to reach 96% student attendance consistently, and we have seen a recent improvement in this. Please ensure that your child is in school and on time every day to prevent anyone from falling behind with their learning. It is important that Metropole School's attendance target is maintained, and so to celebrate classes that have good attendance, we reward a class each week with the *attendance cup*. Well done to 8G and 10E who reached 99% attendance last week!

Sibling-Enrolment 2023/24

We have now opened up our admissions for enrolments Academic Year 2023/24, and we would like to offer our current parents the opportunity to apply for a place for siblings of Metropole students. This application is for those siblings who are new to Metropole School only. Re-enrollment for existing students will open in January 2023. Please note that sibling enrolment is not an automatic guarantee of a school place and all applications will be subject to our normal entry and assessment criteria. Should you have any questions, please contact n.mohamed_mts@gemsedu.com

Upcoming Key Dates

Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st October	Half-term break
Monday 24 th October	Year 10 parent-teacher consultation evening
Monday 31 st October	6 th Form parent webinar – invite to follow
Mon 31 st October – Wed 2 nd November	Year 8 Eco-Venture school trip
Tuesday 1 st November	UAE Flag Day
Tuesday 1 st November	Assessment parent workshop – invite to follow
Thursday 3 rd November	Year 7 parent-teacher consultation evening
Monday 7 th November	Year 11 and Year 13 mock examinations begin

As always, I welcome your feedback - about this letter, or any aspect of your child's experience with us: d.aschettino_mts@gemsedu.com.

I wish you a wonderful half-term break and I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 24th October.

Kind regards,



Daniella Aschettino
Secondary Headteacher

