



14th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Half-Term Updates

We finished this half-term with 6 phenomenal performances of our school's production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* that dazzled audiences with its creativity, talent, and sheer ambition. With **over 200 students** involved—both on stage and behind the scenes—this show was the result of months of dedication, teamwork, and hard work. From the energetic performances to the stunning set designs, every detail brought Roald Dahl's classic story to life in a truly magical way. As always, our Creative and Performing Arts demonstrated the highest of ambitions and this ambitious production proved that, with passion and creativity, anything is possible. The technology used created breathtaking visuals and special effects, elevating the experience to a whole new level. A huge thank you and congratulations to everyone involved for showcasing pure imagination and making this a performance to remember!

A memorial for Jaiden Shehata

In my letter dated 10th February I wrote to inform you about the special seating area we will be creating in memory of Jaiden Shehata. We have been humbled by your generosity and this will enable us to build a lasting tribute that students will be able to enjoy for many years to come. If you would still like to donate, then you can use this [link](#) or QR code to the right. A reminder that the [petition](#) to close Bournevale Crossing is still live and has nearly 4,000 signatures.



Mental Health Week

This week we have been supporting Place2Be's Children's Mental Health week. The themes this week have been 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' and 'Making Healthy Choices'. Staff and Year 11 Student Ambassadors worked hard to create activities and resources for students to access and engage with throughout the week. In morning Tutor Time students have discussed goal setting, mindfulness and journalling, three strategies that can be used to support students in getting to know and understand themselves. In afternoon Tutor Time, our Year 11 Student Ambassadors shared an assembly for all students to watch, called Emotions, which links perfectly with the theme of the week. In addition, we have shown students an assembly from Kooth, an online support service commissioned by the NHS. Outside of the classroom students have had the opportunity to do something different at lunchtime this week with our staff vs students challenges in PE. It has been great to see so many of our students challenging staff in netball, table tennis and badminton.

Behaviour and Standards

As we come to the end of the half-term, I wanted to remind parents and carers about the Riddlesdown Commitment. It is through this Commitment that we develop those vital personal characteristics that ensure our students will be successful and can maximise their potential once they leave the Collegiate. I have once again attached the information that sets out our expectations

so that at home, families can continue to support the same messages to ensure that we maintain our already well-established outstanding standards. Please refresh yourselves with these so that when students return after the half-term break, they are Riddlesdown Ready with the correct [uniform](#) and equipment so that the focus is solely on learning within and outside of the classroom. A reminder that students are only allowed one single pair of studs worn in the lower ear – no other jewellery is allowed, including any visible body piercings or tongue studs. Nail varnish and nail extensions are not allowed; discrete, subtle make-up is permitted for students in Years 10-11. As always, your partnership and support with our work here is greatly appreciated.

Safeguarding Briefing

It is widely known that theft of personal belongings, or 'mugging' as it is commonly known, is more likely when an individual has a mobile phone which is obvious or visible. I understand we want to be able to make contact with our children and for them to be able to use important apps which help us to identify their location or other crucial needs; so, we encourage them to have their phones on their person. Please, over half term, when your children are away from home or without an adult, remind them of the importance of keeping their phones safe and away, preferably out of sight. When they need to use phones, give them advice about how and when to do this, such as in busier places, near or in shops and downstairs on the bus. In addition, reminding them of the importance of being in groups, thinking *safety in numbers* is a good way to remind them of how to keep themselves safe over school holidays.

Yours sincerely



Daniel Osborne
Principal