

27th September 2024

Dear parents/ carers,

The weeks are certainly flying by as we reach the end of week four of an exciting start to the year. I have been grateful this week to the St Theresa of Calcutta Trust who have sourced national experts to work with subject leaders in carrying out the re-shaping of our curriculum. This is a constant process in any school as the curriculum design is lived and not just fixed. In terms of those experts, they have been impressed with what we are doing and constant desire to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of all our learners, equally the way in which our staff are open to suggestions about how to tweak our impact to create an even greater love of learning among your children.

Y11 Mock examinations begin on Wednesday 30th October. Pupils have received a timetable and it is also on Satchel 1

We are coming to a busy period for Y11, with the first set of mock examinations on the horizon, as a parent of a Y11 pupil I am going through the exact same process. If I could be bold enough to give a tip for this first set of mocks it would be to revise the critical knowledge. I would recommend writing flashcards with a knowledge based question on the front and the answer on the back, and then using them to test that knowledge together to commit that key knowledge to the working memory, I have been doing this at the dinner table with my own son and have certainly found that 5-10 minutes of this has reassured me about the learning taking place. Equally, we have had the local post 16 - providers into school to deliver talks to our Y11 pupils. This has been really positive in helping shape future choices for our students, please can I urge you to continue to have those conversations as having a direction and plan can be very motivational.

Free School Meals and Financial Support

The last couple of years has brought a number of challenges for each of us and for many, this has involved household finances. We envisage that this may get worse over the winter. We therefore would like to take this opportunity to highlight the procedure for applying for **free school meals**. We would also like to assure you that all students pay for their lunch using their fingerprint, therefore other students will not be aware of the change to free school meals. **You are eligible to claim free school meals if you receive one of the following:**

- Universal Credit - and your earned income is less than £7,400 a year, after tax and not including any benefits
- Income Support
- income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- income-related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, providing you do not get Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income is less than £16,190
- guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

To apply, go online at <https://www.bury.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>.

Reading for pleasure

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of future success. There are clear links between reading, literacy and health, wealth, job opportunities and well-being. Being a good reader has an impact on school attainment. See the books below that pupils are reading in form time. Please have discussions with your children about the texts.

Year 7

Boy 87

The Outsiders

Divided City

Floodland

Year 8

The House with Chicken Legs

Running on the Roof of the World

Liccle Bit

The London Eye Mystery

Year 9

Alone on a Wide Sea

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Chinese Cinderella

Crongton Knights

Year 10

Grow

Year 11

Noughts and Crosses

Have a restful weekend.

Your sincerely



Mr S Braithwaite
Interim Headteacher