

Dear Parents/Carers

As we fast approach the half term-break, I wanted to update you on a few points related to school.

Most students have made a very good start to the academic year, settling in very well to their new timetables and the new subjects that have been introduced. Our student ambassadors in KS4 have been working with new students at the school, particularly our new Year 7 group, to help them settle into school life and feel at home, which has been fantastic to see.

We have had lots of positive comments from parents, and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our school. As always, if there is anything you would like to discuss or raise about your child's school then please do not hesitate to contact school reception.

School Bikes: We have made and continue to make extensive improvements to the facilities across the school and as you will be aware we recently installed a 3G Football pitch, a track around the school field and developed a pond for our life cycles and outdoor curriculum. This week, the school purchased 10 bikes for the students to use on the track. After half term, we will be participating in bikeability schemes with Wigan Council. In addition to the scheme, the bikes will be available for students to use as part of the Friday enrichment lessons, PE lessons and as a reward for excellent work and effort.

We have also purchased 10 helmets and 10 pairs of gloves for students to use. Students will not be allowed to use the bikes unless they wear the helmets and gloves, and we would appreciate it if you would support us to enforce this by stressing the importance to your child of wearing this protective equipment.

We recognise that not all students may be able to ride a bike and that this may be a barrier to attendance or cause anxiety. If this is the case with your child then please do contact school reception and speak to our Pastoral Manager, Lisa Heyes. We will ensure that this is handled sensitively and supportively with your child so as not to cause any anxiety.

You will find below a consent form for the bikes. Please would you complete this and return to school by Thursday 20th October.

ExpansE Learning Tyrer Avenue, Wigan WN3 5XE

Tel: 01942 877715 Email: hello@expansElearning.co.uk

Web: www.expansElearning.co.uk



Merit system: The students have taken well to our new merit system which allows them the opportunity to gain merit points that they can spend at the end of each half term or save up to exchange later in the school year. The merit system also allows students the opportunity to be invited on reward trips at the end of each full term, and so please do encourage your child to continue trying their best each day so they don't miss out.

School photographs: Tempest Photography will be in school on Monday the **21st of November 2022**. Once the photographs have been taken, you will have the opportunity to order your photos via the Tempest website with a unique 10-digit reference number. Please consent to your child being photographed using the slip below and return it to the school reception.

Toilet redevelopment: During half term, contractors will begin a five-week programme of work within the school to refurbish the boys, girls and visitors' toilets. Unfortunately, during works of this type, there will be disruption to normal school operations and additional noise. Everything possible will be done to reduce any effect on the school and the students during the works and all students will be briefed on this in the last assembly before half term.

If, during the redevelopment work your child raises any concerns or displays additional anxiety then please do not hesitate to contact school reception to discuss.

Tree Planting: As part of the development of the school field, after half term, we will be taking delivery of over 100 tree saplings which the staff team and the students will be planting around the track with support from the Woodland Trust. Over time, this will grow into a woodland walk and nature area.

Parent Governor: The school is currently recruiting for a new parent governor to join our governing body. Typically, the governing body meet four times a year for a 90-minute meeting and it's a very rewarding and engaging position. Prospective parent governors will have the opportunity to undertake training in a number of areas including Safeguarding and Equality as two examples. If you would like to express an interest, please contact school reception, and ask to speak to Mr Hanley about the role.

Curious Minds: The school will be taking part in a cultural project with Curious Minds. The aim of the project is engage students in Y7 and 9 in five Arts and Cultural Visits which the students choose, plan and participate in. The principle behind the project is to expose young people to experiences that they otherwise would not take notice of, for example, the theatre or a particular artist. This project will be led by Miss Heyes and more information will follow.

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Just to remind you that school closes for half-term on Friday 21st of October and reopens on Monday 31st of October. Thanks again for your continued support and I hope you all have a good half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Hanley

Head Teacher



Child's name: _____

I do / do not give my child permission to access the bikes on the track

My child can / cannot ride a bike without support.

I do / do not give my child permission to have their photograph taken with Tempest Photography

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

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