



Thursday 19 December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Wow, another term has gone by in a flash! In the last few weeks alone we've been so busy with Year 11 mocks, Christmas shopping trips abroad, two major carol services and of course the Christmas Fayre a few weeks back, which I shall refer to again below.

## A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

### *Year 11 Mock Results Day*

Last Thursday, Mr Trainer (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Jackson (Head of Year 11) organised a special breakfast to accompany the distribution of their recent mock examination results. For many it was a wonderful experience, others a wakeup call and for some a disappointment or even a shock. In other words, precisely the range of emotions experienced each August on the actual results day.

We run these events so that the students are reminded that it is not the actual results day. In fact it's 5 or 6 months before the exams even start. This means that the future is still in their hands – it is not fixed. It is very, very flexible and their final grade is in fact still up for grabs.

### *The Fight or Flight Response*

Typically, a student progresses by about 1.5 GCSE grades between their mock and their actual examination. But that's an average and so some advance three or four grades, others not at all or even go backwards. Why?

**Firstly**, it's to do with the student's individual response to both their results and their thinking about the GCSE exams coming up. Across the country there are 600,000 Year 11s weighing up the six months ahead. Each will be internally battling a fight or flight response: "Shall I embrace this challenge (the fight response) or shall I avoid the challenge (the flight response)?" We can encourage, motivate and inspire – but each one of us has to determine our fight or flight response to every challenge.

## FIGHT OR FLIGHT

**Believe in yourself**  
**Try again**  
**Concentrate**  
**Work hard in class**  
**Complete all revision**  
**Listen to the advice**  
**Loads of practice**  
**Go the extra mile**

**Blame someone**  
**Give up**  
**Loses focus**  
**Distract others**  
**Do little at home**  
**Ignore the help offered**  
**Loads of avoidance**  
**Do the bare minimum**



**RLT** RIVER  
LEARNING  
TRUST

**Secondly**, it's to do with how we prepare your children for those examinations. The chart opposite tries to summarise the stages of how we prepare your children for their examinations.

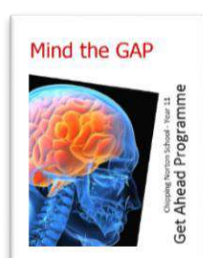
We know that we can bring out the fighting spirit in young people if we give them belief and hope - and if they regularly experience success. We are preparing Year 11s and 13s better than ever before with a simple approach based on what we know about how our brain works and how we memorise and master our studies.

**Thirdly**, it's to do with how parents and carers can make a big difference...

### *What can parents and carers do?*

Three things will make a difference:

1. Check they know what they are meant to be memorising (revising).
2. Check they are creating revision notes (e.g. flashcards)
3. Check how their in-class practice is going - encouraging and motivating as necessary!



### *The GAP Begins*

Starting in January, the Year 11 Get Ahead Programme commences and is a 16 week programme that will get every Year 11 student ready for their examinations. If a student fully engages in those activities, gets stuck into their studies in class and follows the advice of their teachers, then there is absolutely no reason why they cannot make two, three or even four grades progress in those final sixth months.

### *Amazing PTA AGAIN!*

A few backs at the Christmas Fayre, our wonderful PTA raised another £2100 for your children and our school. I cannot thank them enough for being one of the best PTAs around and making a massive difference in our community. Why not consider joining them by contacting Tanya Harrington?

[tanya.harrington70@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.harrington70@gmail.com)



Team	Amount	Additional Resources
History	£1000	A Level Textbooks
SEN	£1575.00	8 Chromebooks
English	£1575.00	8 Chromebooks
Computer Science	£100.00	Arduino Starter Kit
Music	£186.64	Soundproofing for music rooms
ASDAN	£604.00	Benches / plants / paint
Art	£400.00	Art Easels
Modern Foreign Languages	£399.60	German dictionaries
Sociology and Psychology	£850.00	Many extras including books / textbooks / visualizers / stationery
Design & Technology	£2340.00	Desktop & 3D printer



Fundraising at the school has been one of the major highlights of this term with the enthusiastic responses to our non-uniform days, the *TeamAnna* campaign or the national events like *Children In Need* where, for example, the Sixth Formers raised £367 – double the previous record – with their coin sculptures.

You may also recall that 12 months ago we collected 100 Christmas parcels for the homeless of Oxfordshire in partnership with [Aspire](#). This year we set a goal of trying to collect 140 parcels and have ended up with 248! Opposite is an image of some members of the Student Council about to load the parcels for delivery.



My thanks to Mrs Thomas who has been brilliant in coordinating us all this year through this ambitious project. But a special mention has to go to 11MKD – Ms Dean's tutor group collected 12 parcels. However, right out in front was Mrs Tandy's Year 7 tutor group – they collected 25 parcels!

Having a reputation for kindness seems much more important than any other human quality and is very much part of what we encourage our students to think about as they become aware of the challenges that exist in our society.

This is the kind of character we cherish and is also exemplified by the voluntary work our students do outside school.

For example, over the last term a small team of sixth form students have been helping the Hooky Neighbours charity support older members of their community. Some students have been making regular visits, some doing odd jobs and some helping with the running of the charity.

"We just wanted to highlight the wonderful support your students are giving our charity, Hooky Neighbours. They do as much as they can for those in need of company and help. People are always impressed with the level of support we receive from the students and Chipping Norton School. We are hoping that in the New Year we will be able to organise more pairings and odd jobs, as well as recruit more students."

*From Hooky Neighbours'*  
Michelle Dix and Paul Cann.



### *Celebration Assemblies*

Which links beautifully to our new assemblies. In the past week we have begun each day by celebrating the character of the young people in our school. We hope that you followed us on Facebook each morning.



Awards were distributed for Gold Personal Scorecards, from teachers, form tutors, Heads of Year and PSAs – all recognising the fantastic students we have at this school.



You will have received the letters from the Years 7 to 11 Heads of Year and PSAs last week that listed all of the prize winners. The final page illustrates the names of the 110 Gold Award winners from Years 7 to 10 whose are the first to receive this new award.

We look forward to more and more students earning that award either at Easter or in the summer. January is a time to start afresh: arrive and be seated by 8:40am, throw oneself into lessons, dress correctly, miss as little school as possible and collect more House Points for kindness, effort or commitment.

### *And finally... farewell*

It is with sadness that we shall be saying farewell to Mr Crudge after thirty years of service as a teacher and former Head of Design & Technology. We wish him every happiness in his retirement and welcome Mr James to our Tech team in January. Meanwhile Mrs Budd, our Family Support Worker, will be beginning maternity leave in January and she will be temporarily replaced by Ms Green.

### *Start of the 2020 Term*

The new school term begins for all students at the normal time on Tuesday 7 January 2020. Until then have a wonderfully restful and happy holiday with family and friends. See you next year!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Ben Dill".



Myles Adams Taryn Wyatt  
Turner Jones  
Sandy Motley  
Naomi Coleman

Eloise Moore  
Eliska Kravola  
Mollymae Loose  
Cameron Ogilvie Ben Miller  
Verity Lewis Callum Cottrell  
Morgan Wollerton Jasmine Puckey  
Niamh Hewitt-Gray Victoria Sladen  
Robbie Stonehouse Charlie Jennings  
Joe Dix Wiktorja Twardowska Oliver Henderson  
Erin Massey Poppy Wareham-Valler Izzie Hirst

## Gold Award Winners

Lily Edwards Lukie Janse Van Vuuren Charlie Yates  
Katie Wiloughby Aidan-James Hergt Kameron Spencer  
Frederick Smith Scarlett Marshall Charlie Sampson  
Abigail Nunneley Madeline Palmer  
Sophie McCallum Thomas Robinson Imogen Bissett Mia Cross  
Flo Mantell Abby Humphries Maya Lynch Smith Iris Fledderus Lara Woodward  
Lucy Jennings Ava Richardson William Gofton Bethany Jarvis  
Chloe Mulhearn Emily Chambers Kiera Williams  
Emily Ridgeway George Belcher Louis England Oliver Davis  
Nathan Smart Abigail Cubley Gabriel Beale David Kirk  
Ellie Knobel Thomas Adnams Sammy Jenkins Freya Rennie  
Hayden Moore Samuel O'Shea Luke Bradford Faith Disney  
Joanna Pike Oscar Bishop Luke Sampson Amy Leverett Jack Loweth Maddi Hall  
Beth Castle Bella Knight Sophie Hergt Holly McAdam Hetty Cooke  
Chloe Webb James Homer Arthur Webb Ethan Adams Cerys Moss  
Gemma Webb Martha Bell Rosie Petre  
Bea Lawson Joe Walsh