

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

I can't quite believe the first term of the new academic year is at a close. It has been another busy but purposeful term.

The year has kicked off with some wonderful trips for students to experience learning outside of the classroom. There was the Year 3 trip to the beach, the two-day GCSE Geography Fieldwork trip, a Year 5 trip to Battle Abbey and a Key Stage 2 trip to Beechwood Care Home. All of Year 7 went to the University of Brighton's Eastbourne campus for a Teambuilding Day, and the whole school contributed to the brilliant annual sponsored walk. Last week, students in Years 8, 9 and 10 went Dry Slope Skiing and almost forty Secondary phase students embarked on an exciting trip to Iceland; we are keeping our fingers crossed that the weather is kind, so they get a glimpse of the Northern Lights.

There were plenty of in-school immersive learning opportunities this term. There was the Hands-on History experience for Year 2 and Year 4, the Victorian Day in Year 6, a Dinosaur Workshop in Year 1, a Start the Heart Workshop for Year 5 and Year 6 and our first ever live Aspire Radio show with students across the Primary and Secondary phases putting together an informative, fun and professional production. If you haven't already listened in, you can find it on our [Aspire\\_Radio](#) Mixcloud page.

Our Careers and Enterprise Co Ordinator, Mrs Bray, launched the Year 10 Work Experience with students and parents and put on a fantastic Careers Fair for students in Year 10 and Year 11. Year 11 and Year 13 also took part in the Senior Maths Challenge. As a whole school, it was heartening to see the support of our annual Harvest Festival, with all donations being given to the local Eastbourne Foodbank.

The last day of term was Super Hero Day in the EYFS and the children were surprised by the appearance of our very own Aspire Super Heroes. It was great to meet some of the traditional Super Heroes including Spider Man, Super Girl and the Incredible Hulk, but also a Fireman, a Doctor, a Vet and even a Cowboy represented.

Thank you to those parents that supported our Primary Stay and Learn afternoon and to the parents who attended the whole school Parent Partnership Evening on the Quality of Education at Gildredge House.

We have recently toured just over two hundred prospective parents and students during our Open Mornings, in addition to almost eight hundred people who visited at the recent Year 7 Open Evening, and we did so with immense pride.

I also want to recognise the collective progress we have made in various aspects since September which is palpable when walking around the corridors and dropping into lessons. The strides we have taken in teaching, learning, inclusion, pastoral care, and wider support for our school is undeniable and testament to the extraordinary efforts of our students and staff.

I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together and, as we approach the well-deserved half-term break, I want to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful and restful holiday.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CB', written in a cursive style.

Mr Craig Bull  
Executive Head Teacher