



3rd April 2019

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Mrs A L Kennedy BA, PGCE, NPQH
Head of School

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to remind you that school will close for the Spring Break on Friday, 5th April 2019 at the usual time and the buses will collect students as normal; we re-open on Tuesday, 23rd April. School closure details can always be found on the school website.

Revision Sessions

Please note that revision sessions for Yr11 will take place during the holiday, those students who are attending revision sessions in school during the break have been informed in advance of the dates and times of the sessions. GCSE examinations take place from Friday, 10th May and end on Thursday, 27th June 2019. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students good luck in their forthcoming exams.

Knife Crime Assembly

In light of recent events in the news regarding knife crime, Merseyside Police will be delivering an assembly to all students around the dangers of knife crime. We understand that this will be a powerful assembly and that some students may find it distressing. I would like to reassure you that although hard hitting, it will be age appropriate and staff will be available to speak to any students who want to discuss any issues raised.

Mobile Phones

I would like to remind you of the school's policy with regard to mobile phones which should not be switched on in school. If students use their phone or it goes off in school it will be confiscated until an adult can collect it from the school office; refusal to hand over the phone can lead to school sanctions being undertaken. I trust you will support us in the continued implementation of this policy and encourage your child not to use their phone in school.

School Buses

You may have heard in the press recently the financial problems that schools are facing to balance budgets. To this end, from 24th May 2019, the Governors have taken the decision to remove the provision of school buses. The Governors have not taken this decision lightly, originally the cost of the buses was not paid by the school but by the Local Authority and over the last few years it has been difficult for the school budget to sustain the cost of the school buses.

It is felt that the money needs to be spent on the provision of education for our young people. The money will be used in a variety of ways, on staffing thereby reducing numbers in classrooms and ensuring quality of provision but also to develop a wide range of extracurricular activities to widen the opportunities given to our young people.

Depending on your circumstances, you may be able to get help in getting your child to and from school and your child may be able to get a bus pass from the Local Authority. Eligibility for a bus pass states:

You are entitled to a bus pass if you live 3 miles from school, you receive a low income and your child is entitled for Free School Meals or the family are in receipt of the maximum level of working tax credit and school is more than 2 miles from home.

The route your child walks to the nearest school is unsafe. Knowsley classify a none-safe route as no pathways, no lighting, dangerous surfaces, overgrown hedges blocking pathways and no safe crossing points - this would be applicable to students crossing major roundabouts over major junctions without pedestrian crossings.

Areas of high crime

Information regarding provision of bus passes is available from: [/www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/education-and-schools/apply-for-free-school-bus-pass](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/education-and-schools/apply-for-free-school-bus-pass) Application for bus passes can be made at any council one stop shop or via the Contact Centre on 0151 443 2500. If you require any supporting documentation or assistance in completing the paperwork, the school would be happy to help.

I appreciate that this decision may cause concern with parents and students. This is why we wanted to write to you as early as possible so that you can ensure that your child is adequately prepared for making their own way to and from school.

Year 8 Teambuilding

Our Year 8s thoroughly enjoyed participating in outdoor sessions on Lord Derby's estate. Developing their teamwork and leadership skills, the pupils participated in a wide range of events and they did us proud with their excellent attitudes.

DoE

Our Duke of Edinburgh programme is continuing, with our Bronze Qualifier expedition to take place this coming weekend. Feedback from the staff running the programme has been very positive about the behaviour and attitude of the students. Good Luck to all the students taking part.

Sporting achievements

This has been an extremely busy half term for sporting activities with many students competing in competitions or festivals. Congratulations to our Girls Year 7/8 football team who became Champions at the Knowsley, St. Helens and Halton Girls Secondary tournament. The team were undefeated in the group stages scoring 17 goals and only conceding 1. They beat All Saints, Cowley, Rainford and Wade Deacon. The team faced Kirkby in the final and the game remained goalless for quite a while until Prescott took the lead and eventually went onto win 3-1. All girls were a credit to school and played some superb football. Thank you to all the parents who braved the weather and came along to support the girls.

Congratulations to Katie who recently became Knowsley Schools Year 8/9 Cross Country Champion. She won comfortably leading the Year 8/9 girls home to a team 1st. Congratulations also to the Year 7 boys who secured a team 1st led home by Tyler. Again, thank you to parents who came to support the students.

Wellbeing Award

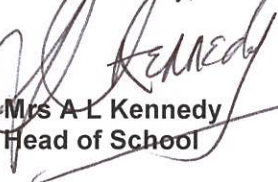
Our school is currently working to achieve a school improvement award for Wellbeing to help promote positive, emotional, mental health and wellbeing. Next term, we will be seeking views from students, parents and staff in order to evaluate where we are now and what we can do even better. We will contact you with further information in due course.

Easter Experience

Students from Year 7 have recently attended Prescott Church to take part in their Easter Experience. The Church organised a set of activities to highlight the story of Easter and had a fantastic day.

I would like to wish you a Happy Easter and thank you for your continued support of the school and the students.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A L Kennedy
Head of School