

9 February 2024

Dear parents and carers

**Our school show: Matilda JR:** We are excited that next week is the school show running over three nights on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. With Miss Benson (Head of Drama) and Mr Whitfield (Head of Music), the cast have put in a huge amount of work after school for months to get to this point. I am so proud of them all for their commitment and preparation over so long. Finally, it is here.

It is great that so many parents and students want to attend to support it and enjoy the evening. **If you have not bought a ticket in advance, you will not be able to turn up on the night as there are no seats left.** We will post pictures on our Facebook page next week.

**Excellence in all we do:** Our overarching theme this term is 'excellence in all we do' and there are three Ps that link to this: Be **prompt**; Be **prepared**; Take **pride**.

The 'be prepared' element is all about ensuring every student is ready to do each lesson, with the right uniform and equipment and in doing so this removes potential barriers to help them engage well in their lessons. This sets them up for the day and for success in their learning.

**National Apprenticeship Week (NAW):** This week was the 17<sup>th</sup> annual NAW, where as part of our promotion of choice of future careers, we shone a light on apprentices, employers and their training providers. The *Skills for Life* theme this year reflects on how apprenticeships can help to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career, and businesses to develop a talented workforce that is equipped with future-ready skills.

Pupils took part in '**This is my Story**' in form: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/this-is-my-story/>

Pupils in years 7 to 10 heard from a degree apprentice design engineer from Sellafield: <https://careers.sellafieldsite.co.uk/graduates-placements/apprentices/apprenticeship-schemes/>

Pupils in Years 8 and 9 had a visitor from The British Army and heard about the range of opportunities available from one of the largest providers of apprenticeships in the UK.

**Half term:** Next week is the last week before we break up for one week. **We break up at the normal time on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February and return to school on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February. There is no training day after half term.**

We have seen really impressive equipment levels from the vast majority of students this term – thank you for your help. Please use half term to replenish stocks and do a check to see if some purchasing is needed.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,

**Kieran Larkin**  
Headteacher

**CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING**