



Dear Parents

With just one more day to go before the long-awaited Christmas break, I am sure you and your families are all in the final throes of planning for your holidays. Our Year 11 and 13 students are particularly keen for this break to come, having spent the past two weeks ensconced in the Sports Hall or Dance Studio sitting mock examinations and also, for Year 13, completing their TOK presentations in the Hive. I hope that all our examination students have done their best, and get the results they deserve, but more importantly have learnt what they need to work on in order to fulfil their potential in the May/June exams.

Further guidance on how to improve their learning, for all our Secondary students, can be found on their reports which will be issued tomorrow. Our new format reports require teachers to clearly identify for each student two 'areas for development' which will help to take them forward in their learning. Please encourage your children to not only read, but also act on this advice.

Reading through the reports has been a delightful experience – it is a real pleasure to see that the teachers are, on the whole, very impressed with our students' engagement, attitude and behaviour, and most of our students are working very hard to achieve their absolute best.

A handful of our students have flown off to the UK in the last week or so for Oxbridge interviews, and I am sure that they, like us, will be crossing fingers and toes for acceptance letters to arrive shortly after the holidays. Places are extremely limited and competition is intense, but we know that our students are equipped to compete with the very best in the world, and their invitations to interview are already a tremendous achievement.

Although the holidays are fast approaching, Secondary lessons have continued largely as normal this week, with a huge amount of learning still taking place, but tomorrow afternoon, the Secondary School will let its hair down a little with a Christmas themed assembly and class parties to finish off a wonderful term. Students are welcome to bring in a small amount of food to share at their parties, but please do ensure that nothing contains nuts.

I hope that you have a wonderful holiday, wherever you are spending it, and look forward to seeing your children on January 6th, refreshed and ready for another exciting term ahead.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Dinah Hawtree
Head of Secondary