



Matravers

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HEADTEACHER'S HALF-TERM LETTER

February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our half-term update. The school year is once again certainly flying-by with lots happening around the school as usual! Following our recent “mock-exams” in Years 11 and 13, students are hard at work getting ready for their summer exams. It is always a measure of how committed a student is to their studies when we ask them to work a little harder and we are proud of how many students are attending our “period 6” programme to help them secure even better results. If you are a parent of a student in their final crucial exam stages, please let us know if you have any concerns or queries. Working together to encourage and challenge, in equal measures, is vital to securing the results our students deserve. We thank all parents for turning out to the many parents’ evenings we have held and for supporting your sons/daughters by doing this; it does make a massive difference to know that you are helping. The pressure is now on and it can be a difficult time for some students who may hide or ignore the warning signs of not being able to cope, or just want to give up at this stage. There is always a solution to identify the best way forward.

We have been delighted to be able to continue to significantly update our site and buildings having been notified of receiving significant further funding. We have just completed our building of a new state-of-the-art Cycle Storage facility with outdoor seating area, to further promote healthy lifestyles through cycling. Alongside this we have welcomed our own West Wiltshire Table Tennis league to be based at the school, providing wider community access and participation in sports. Lighting in our Sports Centre will be upgraded to provide national and international quality provision to support this. Alongside this we are delighted that the Local Authority has announced that £1,000,000 will be invested into the school this summer to replace the roof and windows in the main block of the school. Our Priority School Building Programme continues to progress with site surveys and initial design works which I hope to be able to update you on more during the next Newsletter. Very exciting times indeed for the school!

We have continued our “outstanding” programme of extra-curricular and enrichment for students. At the time of writing this, our latest school production of *Oliver* is sold out in advance for our 4 nights of shows. We are delighted to have our feeder Primary schools involved in the show for the first time.

Please note the following reminders of Term 4 dates:

Half-term Mon 13 February – Fri 17 February

INSET day Mon 20 February (School closed to students)



Dance in Action	Weds 1 March
World Book Day (Themed Uniform Day – ‘Heroes and Villains’)	Thurs 2 March
Lions’ Concert	Thurs 9 March
Sport Relief	Fri 24 March
PP Day	Fri 24 March
Year 9 & Year 11 Immunisations	Tue 28 March
Ski Trip Departs	Fri 7 April
Last day of term 4	Fri 7 April

Advance dates for information (and start of the new academic year, 2017 - 18):

Fri 1 September	INSET day (School closed to students)
Mon 4 September	INSET day (School closed to students)
Tue 5 September	Year 7 & Year 12 only, induction day
Wed 6 September	All students return

As I write, we have survived winter with no “snow days” leading to a school closure (which is a great relief). Please do ensure that you remind yourself of our procedures: information will be provided via “twitter” (@matraversschool); the school website (www.matravers.wilts.sch.uk); and via local radio stations.

I hope that you all enjoy a well-earned half-term break where batteries need to be re-charged for a very busy few months ahead. Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Dr Simon Riding
Headteacher