

26th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

The end of another successful term is upon us; it seems to have come round so quickly this time. I must congratulate our Year 13 and 11 students for their diligent and mature attitude in the run-up towards their exams – they are impressive young people who it is a pleasure to work with. For most students Easter is a welcome two-week holiday but for those two year groups it is the proverbial ‘calm before the storm’ of exam season; a time to steer the tricky line balancing rest with revision. I wish them all success during the demanding three months to come.

For just over 100 students, though, the end of term is also the start of their ski trip to Pila. This trip is one of the highlights of Highcliffe School life and a source of lifelong memories. My gratitude goes to the staff who give up their holiday and time with their families to make this wonderful experience for students possible. For the first time since 2019 we have had Japanese exchange students here from Johoku High School in Hiroshima - thank you to Mr Bryden for keeping our precious link going and to families who volunteered to host the students. It has been encouraging to see the warm welcome from our students given to the Johoku boys, and their presence has given a real buzz to life in the school during the last few days. I have just returned from taking them to Stonehenge for the day – such lovely young men, so far from home but full of curiosity and wonder. With so much division and mutual suspicion in the world, opportunities to build bridges between people and cultures are precious.

Congratulations to all our student musicians for their multiple wins in the New Milton Music Festival, and to our two teams in the regional heats of the Lego computing competition – one of these teams is progressing to the national finals in Harrogate in a few weeks’ time. Our sports teams have been doing well, especially in football, and we have seen several year group teams make it through the local heats into the County cup and finals. Only a few weeks ago the production of We Will Rock You performed to sold-out audiences, and all students and staff involved received a thoroughly deserved standing ovation on the final night – more lifelong memories created, including me. My thanks to the staff for making such experiences possible for students, and to parents who provide resolute support and encouragement at home.

Sign-ups open on Thursday 28th March for the after-school clubs next term. The list of clubs is on the school website and booking can be done through Wisepay.

Thursday 28th March is a Mufti Day, this time with charitable donations going to the Student Leadership towards funding their plans for a Summer Festival. This new event has been conceived of and will be organised by the Year 7 to 13 student leadership team.

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Please support them by ensuring your son or daughter brings in a £1 donation on Thursday. Usual mufti day rules apply, please support the school by supervising this at home:

- No bare midriffs
- No offensive slogans on clothing
- No artificially dyed hair colours
- Normal jewellery rules apply

Please may I remind students, staff and parents parking on Forest Way to do so considerately, at the request of local residents.

Thank you to our Governors and to the staff at HISP MAT for supporting us this term. I wish everyone associated with Highcliffe School a restful and productive Easter holiday.

See you for the start of the summer term on Monday 15th April 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Earnshaw
Headteacher

