

PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

25th November 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It seems completely unbelievable that we are soon to be in December and are facing the final fortnight of term! And what a term it has been! Our students have undertaken a huge amount of musical, academic and social activities and have done so with an astonishing level of commitment which has led to an extraordinary level of achievement. And there's more to come in the final two weeks with a very packed schedule of performances, workshops and activities. There will be no question that all students will need a good rest when they return to you at the end of term.

Some Information for Boarders: from Lady Cayley

It was wonderful to welcome so many new students to boarding houses this last September, and to see how quickly and how well they have settled in to the boarding routines, with strong support from their peers and older students. The warm welcome extended to new students by those more experienced boarders, and by senior students, was really striking; they have brought with them a richness of backgrounds, experiences and, of course, musical talent, which is truly enhancing and we are delighted to have them! It has also been great to see that so many of this year's new students have already had the chance to play in concerts. It has been lovely to see them performing and to support them as they continue their musical journeys with us.

As we head into winter here are some seasonal reminders: ALL boarding students will

need enough footwear to cope with bad weather conditions. Ideally students should have two pairs of outdoor shoes, (one 'spare' pair to wear in case one pair of shoes gets horribly wet) plus something to wear exclusively indoors.

ALL boarding students need some sort of warm and waterproof coat for use outside. Hoodies are NOT waterproof, however much the students would like them to be!

We are a nut-free school and students should not bring nuts or nut-products, including spread or chocolates, into school with them, as these pose a significant potential risk to some of our students.

Energy drinks and protein powders should not be brought into school. We know that these so-called nutritional supplements and high energy drinks are very tempting for

young people, and many are specifically targeted at young men / teenage boys. The very high sugar content of energy drinks is a real concern. The clear medical advice is that a healthy balanced diet, plus plenty of sleep and good hydration, provides all that is needed for adolescent growth and development.

At the end of term, all UK-based students will need to pack up their rooms in the boarding houses and take all their possessions home with them. (Separate storage arrangements are in place for international students). This gives the chance for all rooms to be deep-cleaned at the start of the holidays.

Mock Week - W/C January 9th

Year 11 and 13 students will sit their academic mock exams the week beginning January 9th. These will be completed under exam conditions and are

an opportunity for students to experience the exam process in preparation for the summer series. An exam timetable will be made available to students

and parents and subject teachers will provide specific information on what to revise over the holidays.

Safeguarding

The principles of safeguarding require that everyone within the school community does their part to protect and look after the children in our care. However, beyond the school gates there remain risks within the wider world and so we thought it might be useful to give you, as parents and guardians, guidance and support with matters regarding your child's safety. Next Wednesday is Computer Security Day and so it is a timely moment to reflect on how young people use the computers and the internet, and on the dangers they may

potentially face. **We have created a new section on the school website under “[Current Parents](#)” where we will be uploading factsheets and resources to help you support your children to explore the internet safely and be mindful of any pitfalls and dangers.** We will be updating these resources to cover a wide variety of topics throughout the year and they will be available for you to download and read at your own leisure. If you have any concerns about your child, please remember that you can always contact

their houseparent or tutor, and if you have a specific safeguarding concern you can contact the safeguarding team by email: safeguarding@purcell-school.org.

Assemblies

Just a reminder that we hold a full school assembly every Monday morning. These are

recorded and the most current one is published to our website [here](#) if you would like to feel

a part of this whole-school moment.



Coffee Shop

Last year, students were very excited for the reopening of the school coffee shop which had been closed throughout Covid and beyond. Since its

reopening, however, it has not been as well-used as we expected. The coffee shop accepts both card payment and cash and will need to be

better used if we hope to keep it open. If students would like to retain this facility, they will need to use it more!

Last Day of Term

We look forward to parents/guardians joining us on the last day of term for mince pies and a drink from 12-1pm in

the dining hall. If you haven't already done so please can you complete this [Google form](#) by **Friday 2nd December** to let us

know if you will be attending.

WhatsApp Groups/Parents Association

At a recent parent meeting I was asked about the possibility of hosting a school parent WhatsApp group to enable easier communication between parents. I have looked into this and taken some advice (not least from our legal advisors) and have been warned off! Anything administered by the school comes with all kinds of

vulnerabilities in terms of sharing of information, the moderation of the group behaviour, and the School would become responsible for managing any virtual disputes between participants. So, regrettably, I fear we cannot undertake this institutionally. It has been suggested that there may be some interest in the formation of a virtual

Parents Association to support the work of the school and aid communication across the school community. If you feel that this would be something you would value, could you please complete the (very short) questionnaire [here](#). If there is sufficient interest, we can then look at its scope, remit and the logistics of setting something up.

I very much look forward to seeing you at one (or more) of our upcoming events or on the last day of term.

With all good wishes



Paul Bambrough
Principal

