

Our ref: 171220GHU – Half Term Newsletter

21st December 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please find enclosed your child's end of term statement which will inform you of how much progress they are making towards their target and crucially how much effort they have been making. Effort is judged on a four point scale (outstanding, good, could do more or poor) and I do hope you will find this useful as you continue to support your child to achieve as highly as possible.

The statement includes a number of important reminders about next term and critically the need for you to make sure that we have up to date contact information for you and medical information about your child should we need to reach you in an emergency. Please contact the school office if you believe that our information is out of date.

As we reach the end of the first term in our new building I am thrilled with the impact the fantastic new facilities have had on life at school. Students have adapted incredibly quickly to the new environment and having classrooms and public spaces that are so much more comfortable and uplifting has improved many aspects of school life. If you haven't been in to see us yet then do please do so we would be delighted to show off the new spaces we have.

So far the students have been looking after the building very well and we have seen better attendance and an increased focus on learning. In the New Year I will be talking to the students further about our expectations of excellence which will build on this very positive start. These will be published on the website and I would welcome parental contributions if you are clear about what it is we should be providing for your children.

We have also been very pleased with how students have settled in to the new school day, two week timetable and expanding enrichment offer. Many parents and students have been positive about the later start and finish and I have received comments that it has significantly reduced family stress in the mornings and that the later start improves learning. We review our curriculum offer at this time every year so if you have strong views about how we organise the day please contact Mr Tucker (atucker@kingrichardschool.net).

Parental support this term has been excellent and I would like to thank you for working so well in partnership with us. The pinnacle was the superb attendance at the year 11 parents evening earlier this month and we were very pleased with the feedback parents gave us with regard to improving the school further. Each year group has two parents evenings this year and I hope this will further develop our levels of cooperation and ability to help your child fulfil their dreams.

One aspect of this partnership is supporting your child to work independently at home by checking they are completing their homework. Parents I have spoken to are really impressed with show my homework which allows you to monitor the tasks they have and which they have completed. There is an information leaflet on the SMHW included with this letter which I hope you will find useful.



Part of the drive for higher standards at the school is our conversion to academy status by joining the United Learning multi academy trust. In the last term we have been busy working with United Learning and the local authority to finalise the details of this conversion which we hope will happen on February the 1st. At this point we will change our name to the King Richard Academy and may make minor changes to our logo and publicity material but most aspects of the school will remain unchanged. Over time we will benefit from UL's expertise and experience which will help us improve further and move faster towards making sure that the education we provide is superb. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to get in contact.

This term we have said goodbye to Mr Hopwood who left the school at half term; pleasingly Mr Gazez has been available to replace him and we are very pleased to have such an experienced geographer committed to the school and able to fill that gap.

School ends at 1.00 pm on Friday 22nd December and starts again on 8th January 2017 at 9am when it will be week 1. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Hughes
Headteacher

