

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Time to recharge

We have now reached the conclusion of our first half-term of the academic year. I think we could describe it as a memorable one with a range of different situations that have arisen to test our community. Nevertheless, we have also achieved a great deal within the last seven weeks. This was captured on Wednesday when colleagues from Anglian Learning trust and other trust secondary schools spoke to some of our pupils in years 7 and 9 about their experiences at Joyce Frankland. As always, our pupils in these circumstances are articulate, confident, mature and insightful. They talked about the positive rapport they have built with their teachers and the kindness that they often show to one another. They also provided us with some very helpful and constructive feedback about the things we could do to improve their experience even more which is always great to hear. A very positive way to end the first half-term.

Updates this week for you are as follows:

1. Applying to our Sixth Form – A reminder that if you are in year 11 and would like to apply to our Sixth Form please complete [this form](#). Mr Brooker wrote a letter to all year 11 parents and carers yesterday to share with their child/ren which included a testimonial from a past student who now works as a television presenter for DAZN Sports. We will then invite you for interview in the spring term. The deadline for completed applications is **15<sup>th</sup> December, 2023**.
2. Losing property – A reminder that if your child/ren lose some property on school site, during the day, and it is not where they had thought they had left it, they should go to pupil reception where it has potentially been handed in or a message will be sent to all staff to inform them of the missing item and to look out for it.
3. Coats and hoodies – As the weather draws in, we would like to remind you that coats are acceptable on our school site but must be removed in classrooms and learning spaces. Hoodies are not accepted at any time and if they are worn during the school day, they will be confiscated until the end of that day.
4. Year 7 timetable change – A reminder to parents and carers of our year 7 pupils that there will be some changes to the structures of their timetable after half-term and some class changes for a small group of pupils. A letter was sent to parents and carers yesterday to explain the reasons for these changes. If you have any queries about this after you have read the letter, please don't hesitate to contact your child's/ren's form tutor next half term.
5. Principal's Diversity Competition – A reminder that I have now launched this year's Principal's Competition for the month of October to highlight the importance of diversity and equity in society. All pupils in years 7-11 are invited to write a poem, rap or set of song lyrics about this topic. It could be about an important figure or their thoughts about why it is important to be acceptant of others. There will be prizes for those judged to be the most impactful for both key stage 3 and key stage 4. Please can all entries be emailed to [principalcompetition@joycefrankland.org](mailto:principalcompetition@joycefrankland.org) by **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November**. Good luck!

This completes the updates for this week. I would like to thank you for all your support this half-term. Our community always functions so much better when we work together to resolve problems, manage situations and celebrate achievements. If you are managing to have a break from your work commitments next week, I wish you a fulfilling and enjoyable holiday with your family and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

In the words of the impressive sports coach, Phil Jackson, "when the mind is allowed to relax, the inspiration often follows."

Best wishes,  
Duncan Roberts

Principal