

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Kindness

Another busy week at JFAN has come and gone as we move closer towards the festive season. It has been great to see our community working together positively despite the fact that we are nearing the conclusion of this epic term. My newsletter next week will be the final one of this term and, as is always the case, I like to make these shorter than the usual versions. Therefore, this week is a good opportunity to reflect upon the things we have achieved this term.

We have integrated a brand-new cohort of year 7 pupils into our community and what an excellent first term they have had. It has been great to talk to them about their secondary experience so far and the enjoyment they have experienced. Our year 8 cohort continue to go from strength to strength – they immerse themselves in so much of our co-curricular programme which is always great to see. In year 9, it is great to see how many pupils are already weighing up their GCSE options, thinking about their longer-term futures and evaluating the best steps for them to take. In year 10, pupils have immersed themselves into their new GCSE courses and are producing some excellent work. In year 11, we have been really impressed and proud with the ways in which pupils have approached this year so far. It can be a challenging year for young people and their families and yet they have tackled with a sense of determination and optimism. It was great this week to experience first-hand the excellent ‘community registration’ of our Sixth Form where all students register together and celebrate the achievements of individual students that week. It demonstrated the united and collegiate atmosphere that we like to celebrate about our Sixth Form.

On top of this, we have made significant improvements to our site security with access control installed and a significant CCTV upgrade. Plans are in place for a brand-new fencing installing project which will take place in 2024. In summary, lots done and lots to celebrate but we are not complacent and continue to identify areas we need to improve and address these as quickly as we can.

Further updates this week are as follows:

1. Social media usage and staying safe online – You would have seen that a letter was shared recently to provide advice and guidance about the use of social media amongst pupils. If you have not read this as yet, please do try to make some time to do so. It is important that the Academy and our parent community can work together on combatting issues which might come into school as a result of social media usage before they take place.
2. Uniform notes/communication – In recent weeks, if a child is unable to comply with our uniform policy for medical reasons, we have seen an increase in them having notes from you on their presence or you have contacted us to inform the Academy about the situation. We are very grateful of this and appreciate the time it takes. This helps to ensure that consequences as a result of not adhering to our uniform policy are applied fairly.
3. Uniform changes – You may remember that a few weeks ago I announced that we will be consulting on changes to our uniform and this will be implemented in a phased approach from September 2024. By way of update, I will be meeting with a group of pupils next week to discuss this further. In March, we will provide the final decision to our supplier and I will be writing to you explain the changes that will be implemented and how this phased approach will work.
4. Contributing to our careers provision – In recent times, we have had success in the way that members of our parent community have spoken to our young people about their inspiring careers. Once again, we are calling on you to share your expertise and experience in your sector of work and we have placed a poster on our social media platforms to explain the ways in which you can support our provision. We want to be building more and more meaningful work encounters with people like you to support our young people. If you are interested there is QR code on this poster which takes you to a form to complete or email Mr Grindrod ([dgrindrod@joycefrankland.org](mailto:dgrindrod@joycefrankland.org)) to express your interest.
5. Year 11 mock release – A reminder that we will be hosting a formal mock exam release on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** for year 11 pupils. Instead of going to period 5 that day, they will go into the Main Hall to receive their results. This will be in-line with the publication of their report. A reminder that our parents’ evening for year 11 is **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January** and we will provide information on how to book appointment slots shortly.

6. Christmas Card competition winners – It was great to be a judge of our annual Christmas Card Competition this week. Once again, the entries were of such a high standard and it was very difficult to decide upon the winners. I know I say this every year but I can assure you it's the truth! The runners up this year were Yevanhelina H in 8 Saxie, Courtney M in 7 Frankland and Lilly W in 10 Trappes. The winners (drum roll please) were Blake E in 8 Saxie and Athena G in 9 Frankland. The winning entries have been published on our social media platforms and printed so that they are used as cards from me to friends of the Academy. All the pupils above will also receive a Principal's Commendation for their exceptional efforts. Thank you to all the pupils who entered the competition and took part.
7. Pupil achievement – This week we were informed that Charlie H in 11 Thompson was offered a full rugby scholarship to Harrow School, London to continue his post-16 studies. This is an impressive achievement; Charlie continues to demonstrate our school values and ethos at every level along with so many of pupils across all of our year groups.
8. Sixth Form charity events - Next week our Sixth formers will be raising money for charity by selling raffle tickets for £1 and tickets for a Christmas cinema to be held at a lunchtime. Please send your child in with a small amount of cash if they would like to take part. All proceeds will go towards Mind, Guide Dogs for the blind and Macmillan Cancer Support.
9. Clavering Players Panto – The Clavering players will be performing Cinderella from Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. Please see our social media sites for performance times and to book tickets.

This concludes the updates for this week. The final week and a half of term in December is filled with events and celebrations and the next eight days will be no exception to this. It is also important to remember the importance of kindness towards others as we approach the Christmas period. We will be highlighting this in form time next week with pupils. As much as the end of this term is a celebratory one, it is also a time when the community's energy may be slightly reduced as we approach its conclusion. Therefore, kindness and respect of one another is the key to ensuring the festive spirit is received in the right way.

I finish this week with a wonderful quote from the late, great Benjamin Zephaniah. As an English teacher, who was involved in London schools where he performed in the early part of my career, I was very saddened to hear of the news of his death yesterday. He will be a poet who inspired the hardest to reach young people with words, rhyme and a wicked sense of humour.

In his words, "We are all human beings, part of the human family, and we should be about doing what we can do to help one another."

Have a great weekend,

Duncan Roberts

Principal