

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Carpe Diem

A slight change from the norm this week as Mr Roberts has sadly been out of the Academy for most of it following a close family bereavement. I know you will join me in sending condolences to him and his family and as a community he will have our full support in the coming weeks.

As I was driving into school this week on a cold, dark and typically January morning I was listening to a discussion about the challenges facing diabetics. What struck me was a quotation I had not heard before from Sir Steve Redgrave about diabetes having to learn to live with him and not the other way around. I think it is easy at this time of year to fall into a mindset which does not embrace each day as it comes, and I am delighted to say the sentiment of Sir Steve's mindset has been evident across the school this week and there are many fantastic pupil achievements to share this week as a result. Abigail S (Year 7), represented JFAN in the Eastern Regional Judo competition winning silver. She now progresses to the National Schools Judo finals in March where we wish her the best of luck. Also, in Year 7, Harley D won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy at the Daniel Ricciardo Go Karting National Championship series, which covered 7 race weekends across the country. Harley now progresses to larger and faster vehicles travelling at over 70mph next season! Finally, Freya B (Year 11), Sam C (Year 7) and Will C (Year 11) have just completed the run of Red Riding Hood put on by the Saffron players pantomime production with twice weekly rehearsals running since September. All brilliant and inspiring examples of pupils really seizing the day.

Further updates this week are as follows:

1. Equipment – Please can we remind you that all pupils need to come to school each day with a pencil case with a pen, pencil and ruler as well as scientific calculator to allow them to access all parts of the curriculum.
2. Tuesday Open Mornings – Following our first one of these this week we are now pleased to launch booking for the next one on 13<sup>th</sup> February. Booking for this can be accessed by clicking on the following link: [Click here](#)
3. Co-curricular timetable – Mr Wilson sent out the co-curricular timetable for the spring term earlier this week. Please do share it with your child/ren. There are lots of clubs to join during lunch time or after school and many opportunities to 'seize the day' on offer.
4. Year 9 GCSE Options – An advanced reminder that Year 9 Options evening will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> February and in the coming weeks we will begin to share more information about this really exciting stage of their academic journey.
5. Saffron Walden Rotary Club Competition - Calling all photographers! JFAN is again joining the Saffron Walden Rotary Club in promoting their annual Young Photographer competition. If your child wishes to enter the competition, they could win an Amazon voucher up to the value of £50! As well as a photography workshop

with a professional photographer and have their photograph published in a magazine! Winners and runners up will also be invited to a presentation dinner with the Saffron Walden Rotary Club at the Saffron Walden Golf Club along with their family. The theme for the competition this year is 'Rebuilding'. There is no right or wrong response to the theme, it is up to the pupils how they interpret the meaning. A PowerPoint presentation which includes all the information your child needs to know has been added to SIMS engagement for all year groups. To enter this competition your child should submit up to 3 photographs (unedited) to Miss Davis - kdavis@joycefrankland.org by Monday 12th February 2024. Your child should include a few sentences describing their photograph(s) and how they represent the theme "Rebuilding".

This completes the updates for this week. We enjoyed having parents in on Tuesday looking around the school and engaging in really positive discussion about our shared goal of making our school an excellent learning environment for all young people. This spirit of collaboration and discussion was also excellent to see in our Year 9 parents' evening last night as they start to think carefully about their curriculum choices moving forward. This approach of working in partnership is the bedrock of the excellent education we are striving to provide each and every day.

I couldn't end this week without a quote and what I think really sums up my feeling about the community this week are Muhammed Ali's immortal words, "Don't count the days, make the days count".

Have a wonderful, relaxing weekend,

Ian Stoneham

Vice Principal