

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Rest and recharge

I hope you have had a positive week. We have now completed this half-term successfully and a break awaits us. Therefore, as with all my final communications before a holiday, I will aim to make this as short as possible so that you no longer need to check emails from us!

Brief updates this week are as follows:

1. Uniform changes – As you are aware we are currently going through a process of reviewing our uniform. One of the particular areas we would now like to canvass a wider view about is whether or not a jacket/blazer is part of our compulsory uniform from September 2024. We would greatly appreciate you completing this [form](#) to share your views on this to help us to formulate a decision.
2. Closure of School Lane from 19<sup>th</sup> March – I had a meeting this morning with Essex Highways, Breheny and the bus companies about the closure of School Lane and can now update you in more detail.
  - a. It is clear that this will result in significant disruption during the drop off and pick up times, especially.
  - b. Breheny will be providing two Marshalls at these times to manage the buses and traffic which is driving into Bury Water Lane. They will be standing on the footpath outside of our entrance to A Block and the Sixth Form Centre. It is likely that traffic will build up substantially on Cambridge Road during these time periods. It is vital that we therefore limit the traffic as much as possible coming into Bury Water Lane so that staff and buses can access the site.
  - c. The buses will drive into Bury Water Lane and drop off pupils in the morning, just past the crossing, on the opposite side to the bus stop. They will then drive down the bottom of Bury Water Lane and turn round at the end of this road before driving back down Bury Water Lane to access Cambridge Road.
  - d. Any buses which drop pupils off on Cambridge Road will continue to do so. In order to reduce the amount of buses during these times, Stephenson's will be combining the 417 and 419 into one bus route.
  - e. When picking up, buses will again drive into Bury Water Lane and wait for the Marshall's signal to go. They will then drive past the Academy, turn in the same place at the bottom of Bury Water Lane before picking up the pupils in the afternoon.
  - f. In summary, in light of this it is not going to be possible for parents and carers to use Bury Water Lane until this work is complete.
3. Newport Parents Association (NPA) Art Competition – The NPA invite JFAN pupils to create their new logo to rebrand as a Parent, Teacher Association (PTA). The logo needs to be adaptable to be used as large or small imagery and navy blue and yellow (with an option to include House colours). Not only will the winning prize have the prestige of knowing that they have created the logo moving forward, they will also gain some art equipment and chocolate. Entries must be submitted by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March to Student Reception. If you have any questions please speak with our Faculty Leader for Art, Miss Sharpe.
4. Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – A reminder that on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, we have an inset day for staff training and development. Therefore, all pupils will return to school on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Please note that this is a Week 2.

This concludes the updates for this week and this half-term. We have now officially completed half of the academic year! Next half-term, I will be requesting volunteers for a small group of parents and carers to join a working party to explore the Academy's long-term improvement plan. I will also be asking this same group to also share their thoughts and feelings on my weekly communication and whether any changes could be made with this. Please do keep an eye out for how to express an interest in joining this group, after half-term.

Finally, I wish you an enjoyable and fulfilling half-term. I know that many of you are still working (it is not a holiday for all!) and I hope, if this is the case, the week goes as smoothly as possible and I look forward to communicating with you again, next half-term.

In the words of American author, Anne Lamott, "Almost everything will work if you unplug it for a few minutes... even you."

Best wishes,

Duncan Roberts

Principal