



Headteacher: Ms Kelda Stevenson NPQH

8th November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you had a lovely half term with your family. It was wonderful to meet so many of you at the parental engagement events that we ran over September and October. I can see what a supportive parental community we have at Swakeleys and as I said to you when I met you in person it is so important that you have input into the school and that we work together to support your daughter.

In total we had over 800 families attending the parent events. 96% of those who attended said that the information provided was either very useful or useful and agreed that the timing of the event was convenient. Some of the feedback quotes were as follows: *“Great intro and overviews from all teachers clear and concise info, Many thanks!”* *“Good time as parents can come from work. Informative, interesting, nice experience, nice to see where children learn”*. *“Extremely useful to have connectivity between school/teachers & parents essential for academic success and understanding our child's environment. We found the session very useful.”* Because the events were so well received we are looking to see whether these can be calendared on an annual basis and we will confirm dates in the Summer term.

If you were unable to attend the parental engagement event for your daughter a follow up letter was sent out by each year learning coordinator with key questions that were addressed on the evening. The slides from the presentation were shared on the website and can be found under our parent tab here: <https://swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk/school-calendar/>

As you know on the 14th October we held an extremely well attended form tutor 1:1 day. The purpose of this day was to give time for tutors (some of whom were new to their tutor group) to better get to know the pupils in their tutor group. Students came into school for an individual appointment with their tutor and for the rest of the day were set some work to complete at home. Evaluative comments from staff included the following: *“Great idea to hear pupils’ voices, I learned more about the pupils in my form beyond their academic achievements, which helped to develop a better connection and understanding”*. *“A fantastic opportunity to get to know the pupils better and talk through any concerns with them”*. 39% of pupils already felt they had a good relationship with their tutor, but a further 52% of pupils commented that they felt the day had strengthened the relationship they have with their form tutor. If you have any comments regarding the form tutor 1:1 day please submit them here: <https://forms.gle/NxeqFpFuiz6cREye6>

We also had a fun, Halloween themed mufti day on Friday 21st October – many students and staff dressed up and looked absolutely amazing! The sixth form decorated the school and we had a student vs staff bench ball competition at lunchtime which was watched by many in the lower school and was great fun.





Thank you for your contributions to the Disasters Emergency Committee – we are happy to be able to support charity work. It is important to me that we are an outward facing school and support others in our local and global community. It was a really positive end to a fantastic half term at Swakeleys where the students have been working really hard and having lots of fun.

It is inevitable that there will be staffing changes over this half term – this is the case in any school. We have had two members of agency staff who are moving on and so we have made some changes to English and Media/Film lessons which take effect over the coming fortnight. We have worked incredibly hard to minimise the impact of these changes and to ensure that classes have a subject specialist. Thank you for your support and understanding and if you have any queries do please direct them to Ms Pimbert who is the Curriculum Leader for English and the line manager of the Media/Film department or Ms Devereux – Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum).

We would like parents to be aware that certain dangerous online challenges seem to be resurfacing within Hillingdon. Please be alert to this and vigilant about your child (ren)'s social media use. Some of the online challenges invite children to take part in self-harm practices. As a parent myself I find these sorts of “challenges” shocking and I know reading about these challenge may be difficult but we felt it important to bring this to your attention. If you become concerned and need advice please feel free to contact a safeguarding lead at school.

On a more positive note this term will be a busy one at Swakeleys with interhouse activities, odd-socks day (14th November) to support anti-bullying, house assemblies, school council meetings, the Winter bazaar (23rd November), Year 11 wave exams and mocks, an interfaith event, a Year 7 pantomime trip and festive celebrations. All alongside lots of hard work in the classroom!

I look forward to working with you as we move through the second half term at this fantastic school and I look forward to seeing you at the Winter Bazaar if not before.

With very best regards to you and your family.

Yours faithfully,

Kelda Stevenson
Headteacher