



Dear Parent/Carer,

17th January 2023

I do hope that you had a restful holiday and happy New Year to you. If you're anything like me you probably can't even remember that we had a holiday! We are certainly back full swing to the term at Swakeleys. We started off with a careers fortnight involving careers lessons, networking events and had a busy and successful careers fair last week – one of the highlights of which were the hugely successful alumni students who came back to school to share their experiences. I do hope that your child made the most of these opportunities. A reminder that all students have access to unifrog and it is well worth having a look together so that whether your child wants to be a dentist or a firefighter they know the pathway that they need to take.

At this point in the term I thought it would be useful to send out a reminder of some of the events taking place this term which will affect your child. Some key dates can be seen below:

Key dates:

Wednesday 18th January – Year 11 Parent's Evening

Thursday 2nd February – 6th Form Parent's Evening

Friday 3rd February – Culture Day

Wednesday 8th February – Parents Forum 6pm & School Production of Fame 7pm

Thursday 9th February - School Production of Fame 7pm

Please also note that the school will be closed for the King's Coronation bank holiday on Monday 8th May. School is also closed for a wellbeing day on Thursday 29th June.

School Photos: One of the many strengths of Swakeleys is student voice. The public relations committee at school have suggested that we need more up to date photographs of the school and students. To this end we will have a photographer in school in the coming months. Can I ask that if you do **not** wish to have your child's picture used by the school that you complete this google [form here](#) by Friday 3rd February.

Culture Day: On 3rd February 2023 we will be holding our second Culture Day at school. On this day pupils have the opportunity to express and celebrate their own culture, as well as joining in with a variety of workshops where they can experience dance, food and traditions from a variety of cultures from around the world.

3rd February 2023 will be a non-uniform day. Pupils are encouraged to wear cultural dress, colours that represent their culture or to simply dress in clothing that will make them feel comfortable to participate in activities on the day. The school timetable will run as normal and pupils should bring their usual books and equipment, but they will be able to sign up for workshops that take place at



Headteacher: Ms Kelda Stevenson NPQH

various times throughout the day. Pupils who have dance or PE on this day will participate in an externally provided dance workshop. The canteen will be providing a grab and go international menu so that pupils can take part in lunchtime activities.

Following on from the success of last year we hope that pupils and staff will enjoy this day. In response to student requests from last year we have added more workshop places, and changed the date so that Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils can attend outside exam season. Pupils will be able to sign up on epraise for workshops and activities from Wednesday 18th January onwards.

Vaccinations and health questionnaires: Given the recent situation with flu rates Hillingdon may offer the opportunity for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to have a nasal flu vaccine in school. We would like to support this. Hillingdon are also asking students in Year 9 and Year 12 to complete a health questionnaire. Please look out for further information.

Parent Forum: Our next parent forum will take place on Wednesday 8th February at 6pm. We will be discussing the school uniform, communication and parent's evenings. It would be lovely to have as many parents as possible there. I will need to organise an appropriate sized venue for the meeting so I would be grateful if you could sign up by Friday 27th January [by clicking here](#).

Entry to the school building: A gentle reminder that the school building is only open to students from 8.30am. Unfortunately we simply do not have the space in school to supervise students before this time. Can I ask that your daughter has warm clothing and an umbrella should the weather be inclement.

Uniform reminders: Can I remind you that your child should be in full school uniform including her blazer. If your daughter does not have a blazer for any reason she should speak to her year learning coordinator to get a red card. Can I ask you to support the school with uniform in also ensuring that students aren't wearing jewellery that is not permitted in our uniform policy. [Please click here to see our School Uniform Policy](#)

NEU Strikes: On Monday 16th January the NEU announced strikes over the Spring term – the first of which is scheduled for 1st February. The other dates are the 2nd, 15th and 16th March. I will get back to you in due course regarding arrangements for these days.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to working with you over the coming term.

Yours faithfully

Kelda Stevenson
Headteacher

