

19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our first, almost totally electronic, newsletter. As we come to the end of the first half term, we now have five hundred and eighty-one parents linked to ParentPay which enables us to email our communications to you; saving paper, printing ink and the letters buried at the bottom of bags! Those of you who have not registered with ParentPay, will receive it through the tutor. Please remember, you can also download and print copies of newsletters from our website.

It has been an eventful and positive start to 2017/18 with all students beautifully dressed and equipped for the day ahead. Please may I have your continued support in ensuring that their uniform is smart.

### **Attendance**

I can report that attendance overall has improved by 0.7% compared with last year and I am delighted that we are working together to ensure every student attends every day wherever possible. Unfortunately, Mr Murphy still receives requests for holiday absence which you will understand I cannot authorise. Mr Murphy would like to remind you that if a student has ten unauthorised absences or late marks, we may issue a penalty notice. We do not like taking this action but good attendance is critical to ensure good progress; that is what we want for all of the Testwood students.

### **Badges**

As you know, each curriculum area award badges to students for outstanding and sustained progress, effort and attainment. It has come to my attention from several parents and students that these precious badges are sometimes lost or mislaid. Students can purchase replacement badges for the nominal fee of £1. Parents need to send the money in with their son/daughter who will tell Mrs Aouichaoui (Finance Officer), the subject badge and the name of the member of staff who issued it. This also applies to other badges which are issued by Progress Leaders etc.

### **Change of Date**

Further to our ParentPay message, dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017, I would just like to remind you that the Inset Day printed in the front of the student planner has changed from 29<sup>th</sup> March to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018. We have asked tutors to tell the students so they should have already made the change in their planner.

### **Gilmore's Garden**

We hope to have a clearing and planting morning on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November from 9am – 11am (weather permitting). Mrs Fitzpatrick has very kindly donated some spring bulbs to brighten up the area. If anyone would like to donate any seeds or bulbs we would be delighted. If you are available, we would love to see you! Please wrap up warm, wear gloves, bring a drink and your tools and be ready for a fun few hours!

## **Christmas Fair/Christmas Jumper Day – 15<sup>th</sup> December**

The Testwood PTA have met twice during this term and have a busy programme of activities ahead. The first of these is the Christmas Fair on 15<sup>th</sup> December from 3pm – 5pm. On this day, students may wear a Christmas jumper to school in exchange for a chocolate donation for the Christmas Fair. For those of you reading this electronically, please see the attached document for more details. Further information is also available on our website.

### **Uniform Reminder**

In the Testwood newsletter we always remind parents and guardians of the importance of keeping to the rules. Currently, uniform standards are very high, however, a small number of girls persist in rolling over their skirt waistbands. Please remind your daughter that it is not acceptable. In addition, students may wear one plain stud earring in either lobe, however, plastic retainers are not permitted.

I wish you all a restful half-term.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs J. Pitman**  
**Headteacher**

### **Dates for your Diary:**

2<sup>nd</sup> November – Year 10 Parents' Information Evening (6.00pm – 7.30pm)

30<sup>th</sup> November – Year 10 Parents' Evening (4.30pm-7.30pm)

7<sup>th</sup> December – Rehearsal for Carol Service

8<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service – St Winfrid's Church (7.30pm) – Everyone welcome!

15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Fair 3.00pm – 5.00pm/Christmas Jumper Day

21<sup>st</sup> December – Last day of term (students finish at 1.00pm)

4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – Students return to school at 8.30am

25<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Parents' Evening (4.30pm – 7.30pm)

1<sup>st</sup> February – Year 7 Parents' Evening (4.30pm – 7.30pm)