



June 2023

Dear parents and carers

Welcome back everyone, I trust you had a pleasant half term break. Unusually we had a warm Bank Holiday weekend! Last half term was another busy one, with a real range of celebrations. We also had a visit from Ofsted. Thank you so much for all the positive feedback in the parental surveys, it really does make a difference to us. Of course, I should mention we are well and truly in examination season and many of our students are taking part in these. This can be a stressful time for everyone involved so I would like to remind you that we are here to help if anyone needs additional support. Alongside supporting our current students, we are also looking ahead towards September and making plans for our new students. Currently we are visiting primary schools to visit the year 6 pupils in preparation for them starting with us in September. This is such an important piece of work as transition from primary to secondary is an exciting time but for some a nervous time too. We are looking forward to the Year 6 into Year 7 transition day too, which will happen at the end of this month. Year 11 into Year 12 will also have a taster day, which I know many Year 11s enjoy.

The majority of our Year 12 students completed their work experience before the break. This experience is such a useful opportunity to gain skills for the next stage of life and helps them to make more informed choices. Due to a variety of factors it has been a while since work experience on such a wide scale has been organised at the school, but we are all delighted to see it back on the timetable. Thank you to everyone that has enabled this to happen. Organising work experience is not always an easy task, but we are sure it has been a valuable one.

We have had some amazing opportunities and successes this half term. The Design Technology department attended a celebration event after reaching the top 10 schools for Design Ventura and found out they won the competition! The project was to design a new product to go to market. The competition is designed to develop design thinking, creativity and business skills. The students were very excited and rightly proud of what they have achieved; the next step is to work with a design consultancy to develop and manufacture their product which will be sold in the Design Museum shop this winter. They also made it into Essex Magazine - [Design Ventura announces STACK IT! from The Piggott School as the Design Ventura 2022/23 winner - Essex Magazine.](#)

The girls' football team is continuing to go from strength to strength! We have won the quadruple in the County Cup! Under 13, 14, 15 and 16 were all victorious! This is an astounding achievement, well done to all the players and the very dedicated (and competitive) PE staff that have coached them through. Furthermore, The Piggott School were successful in the Wokingham District Sports competition. Both our girls' and boys' team were the overall Wokingham winners. One member of staff had this to say, 'I

couldn't be prouder of Team Piggott. Not only did we witness some first-class athletics, but they showed fantastic teamwork and brilliant attitude towards the event.'

One of my favourite events of the school calendar is the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. We have our largest ever number of DofE Award participants this year over both the Bronze and Silver levels. The Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinator commented that 'the students are throwing themselves into new challenges; it is a joy to see everyone becoming such well-rounded young people. The expedition was a real success, the students were excellent, supporting each other and practicing their independence.' We ran both the practice and assessment expeditions last half term, for both Silver and Bronze. The students involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience and felt it was a 'beneficial experience and an enjoyable time with friends.' One year 9 student claimed that 'even though aspects were difficult what we learnt will last a lifetime.' Another child described how 'cooking was super fun in the countryside.' Well done to everyone involved, and good luck with the rest of the sections. We cannot wait to celebrate the final award.

We are looking forward to several events before the Summer break. The Year 7s will soon be attending their camping trip to Embers. We ran this for the first time last year and it was such a memorable experience for everyone attending. For many of our children it is the first time camping or paddle boarding and it is something that they will remember for a long time. For our current year 7 it can be added to their Piggott Passport in the adventure section. In addition to the camping trip we also have the activity weekend towards the end of June. This is a highlight of many of our students' school calendar. We have a range of activities on offer including residentials to Paris (Year 8) and Holland (Year 9) as well as guest speakers and a Theatre Group. Over the next couple of months we also have Sports Day, the Art Exhibition and the Summer Concert to name just a few of the events that we are offering.

Thank you so much for all your on-going support, it is greatly appreciated. Enjoy the last half term of the academic year and best of luck to all our students for the rest of the exam series.

Thank you again,

Michelle Bird

Assistant Headteacher

Lead on Character Education and Developing Cultural Capital



EQualities

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