



FERNHILL SCHOOL

COMMUNICATION HOME

25th October 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I write for the final time this half-term - a long, enjoyable and successful half-term for the school.

This week, we welcomed families of Year 11 students to Parents' Evening. Around 80% of you came to see your child's teachers and I know there were some really helpful conversations which took place. The next milestone for the Year 11s will be the mock exams and we will support them with their preparations for these, as I know you will too. The timetable is attached to this communication.

On Tuesday we welcomed 15 Year 6 children from Tower Hill Primary School for a session in Art and Design, led by Miss O'Sullivan. The children went away from this buzzing and we hope they will apply to join us next year.

On Monday I refereed the Year 11 local football derby between Fernhill and Cove. It was a great match, played in a good spirit, which Cove won on penalties. Our boys have asked for a rematch. Hopefully, by the time this is organised the missed Fernhill penalty will have returned from orbit...

Undoubtedly the highlight of the week and possibly the term, was the Hampshire County Council school monitoring visit which we had yesterday. We have worked tremendously hard with your support and the efforts of the students to make massive strides over the past twelve months and this was resoundingly recognised yesterday by three senior members of the Hampshire school improvement team.

They were unequivocal about improvements to both middle and senior leadership at the school, which is terrific. The best schools are always based on really solid leadership.

In terms of safeguarding, inspectors found that the culture among staff and students was that all felt able to talk and report things. Students were spoken to and said that they felt very safe and happy. They said that bullying was rare and was dealt with firmly and fairly.

In terms of our curriculum, students said that teaching had improved and that the great existing teachers we had have been joined by fantastic new ones. They said they are clearer in how assessment and marking works and feel that Homework frequency has improved. They also said they could not get away with not doing it! Older students said that they particularly value PORSCHE lessons and felt confident in dealing with peer pressure. Students like the 'no phones' policy as they are able to talk and socialise more.

Perhaps most pleasingly, inspectors did not see any low level disruption in lessons and encountered purposeful working environments. They found that the way that the school helps students who need more support with learning has been sharpened up as well and therefore there was no measurable difference between different groups of students' engagement and enjoyment of lessons.

Attendance is greatly improved and exclusion rates have dropped which also reflects that students enjoy their lessons and are happy.

Naturally we are delighted with this feedback and I want to say quite clearly that the improvements we are making would not be remotely possible without your support as families. I thank you sincerely for that. I will leave you with the comment from one of the younger students who was interviewed who said that 'the school feels like a family now'.

Have a great half term with your family.

Mark Kingswood

Letters and Information issued this week

Year 7 Parents' Evening letter – please find attached.

Data checking sheets for Year 11 parents – please return to school asap.

Photograph proof order form – should have come home via students. Deadline for ordering to school extended to 5th November. <https://www.tempest-orders.co.uk>

To view letters home <https://fernhill.sites.schooljotter2.com/news-and-events/letters-home>

Library

Opportunities - The Rotary Club

Young Writers Competition

Another opportunity to see your story published! The theme for this year's competition is 'Connections' and the word count is approximately 500 words. The closing date is Tuesday 17th December. For more information please see Miss Hudson or Mrs Murdoch in the library.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) - YEAR 10: Build confidence and Leadership Skills

This fantastic opportunity is open for all Year 10 to apply for a place on the RYLA residential course. The Rotary Club generously funds two places at a cost of £400 per student. The course is completely free to the lucky students and places are awarded following a successful application and interview. The exact dates are to be confirmed, but the course will take place during the Easter school holiday. Please note that the attached flyer is from this year's event, but will give you and your child an overview of the course content. For more information, please contact Mrs Murdoch s.murdoch@fernhill.hants.sch.uk

Overdue Library Books

287 library books are overdue! Please check at home for Fernhill School Library books. Mrs Murdoch is setting up the library system to alert parents of overdue books. Books lost equals lost funding for the school and a fee of £5.00 per lost or damaged book will be requested; this is clearly stated in your child's planner. Thank you for your support.

RBC Lottery

Thank you for your continued support for our 'Writer in Residence', Becci Hudson. It is very much appreciated. To sign up please go to <https://www.rushmoorlottery.co.uk/>

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

October 2019

28th Oct **AUTUMN HALF TERM HOLIDAY**
to 1st Nov

November 2019

4th **Return to school**
14th Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00 pm
27th Ex Year 11 Certificate Evening 6.00 – 7.00pm

December 2019

5th Year 10 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00 pm
2nd GCSE Mock Exams begin
20th **School closes at 12.20 pm for CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

January 2020

6th **Return to school for Spring Term**
23rd Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00 pm
30th Year 9 Options Evening 6.00 – 8.00 pm

February 2019

13th Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00 pm
17th – 21st **SPRING HALF TERM HOLIDAY**
24th **Return to School**

March 2019

19th Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00 pm
19th Year 6 coffee morning and tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
20th Year 6 coffee morning and tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
25th Year 8 Specialist Studies Information Meeting 6.30 pm
26th Year 11 GCSE Success Fair

April 2019

3rd **School closes EASTER HOLIDAYS at 12.20 pm**
20th **Return to School for Summer Term at 8.35 am**

May 2019

8th **Bank Holiday (re: VE Day) - school closed**
25th **Bank Holiday - school closed**
26th – 29th **SUMMER HALF TERM HOLIDAY**

June 2019

1st **Return to School at 8.35 am**
25th Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00 pm

July 2019

1st	Sports Day
2nd	Year 6 Induction Day
6th – 10th	Year 8 Tile Barn residential visit
6th	Year 4 and 5 tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
13th	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00 pm
14th	Finals Day 4.00 – 6.00 pm
14th	Prizegiving Evening Years 7–10, 7.00pm
16th	Year 4 and 5 tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
17th	School closes for SUMMER HOLIDAYS at 12.20 pm
20th	INSET DAY 3, school closed to students
21st	INSET DAY 4, school closed to students
22nd	INSET DAY 5, school closed to students

August 2019

20th	GCSE results issued
------	---------------------