

Dear Parents and Carers

The last half term has flown by – probably because it has been so busy. The exams are now well under way and I continue to be impressed with the maturity and resilience of our students. They have not had the easiest of school journeys to navigate when we remember that their education in Years 7 and 8 was heavily affected by the pandemic. After the half term we have a couple of weeks of exams remaining beyond which we will wish our students well as they take their next steps into employment, training or further education.

This week we have had another Ofsted monitoring visit (meaning there cannot be a grade change) and the inspectors again were pleased with the progress made. In particular, the improvements in behaviour and attendance were commented upon. One inspector stated that when going around the Academy, 'you could hear a pin drop!'. They were also pleased with the improvement in attendance which we have all worked together on, so well done to staff, students and parents/carers alike. The report will likely be out before the end of June.

After half term, we will be rolling forward the start of the school year for Year 10 as they move into their Year 11 classes and begin their Year 11 curriculum. In this way we hope to secure even more progress with the current Year 10s as they approach their vital GCSE year.

Have a wonderful half-term everyone – and stay safe!

Best wishes

Liz Furber
Executive Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

By the time you read this, the Academy will have had another monitoring visit from Ofsted. The outcome of this ungraded inspection will not be published for some weeks, possibly coinciding with the outcome of our Judicial Review.

An inspection visit equates to just a few hours within a term, or perhaps within a year. For a few schools, sometimes over several years. It is a snapshot of what external inspectors think is happening in a school.

What matters most, in my mind, is what happens on a day-to-day basis; week in, week out. The governors visit the school on a far more regular basis than Ofsted, talk with leaders, observe lessons and speak with students. We ask questions, produce reports, commission external scrutiny and hold discussions about what we have seen.

What we never do is use a single word to categorise what we see. The provision and delivery of teaching and learning is far more nuanced than that. Such a description does not do justice to the tremendous work and effort that goes on in the Academy by both staff and students alike, supported by you, as the parent/carer body.

Ofsted is currently in its consultation process, called 'The Big Listen'. I believe the vast majority of education professionals wish that the single word descriptors would disappear, to be replaced by something that is far more helpful to all stakeholders. Wishing you a good, half-term break.

Best wishes

David Fraser
Chair of Governors

Half Term—week commencing Monday 27th May 2024

Students return after Half Term on Monday 3rd June 2024

Free School Meals

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call Central Beds Council on 0300 300 8306. You will need to have the following information ready:

National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner; dates of birth for your children; if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number.

More information can be found at [Free school meals | Central Bedfordshire Council](#).

Water Bottles

Now that the warmer weather has arrived, please encourage your child to bring a refillable water bottle to school with them so that they can stay hydrated. These do not have to be one bought specifically for this purpose, but can be an empty bottle from a drink they have had earlier in the day, just something with a lid that can be refilled.

We sell reusable bottles at Student Reception for just £1.

Looking Ahead

12th June

Y9 Parents' Evening

19th June

Y11 Leavers' Assembly

26th June

Y8 Parents' Evening

w/c 1st July

Y10 / Y12 Work Experience

3rd July

Y7 Parents' Evening

4th July

Y11 Prom



Essex Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

VACCINE CATCH-UP CLINICS

For more information or to book an appointment please call **0300 790 0594**

Has your child missed their routine school vaccinations?

We are running catch-up clinics in your area. Find your nearest clinic below:

- **Downside Community Centre LU5 4ES**
Friday 31 May, 9.30am - 3pm
WALK-IN CLINIC - Prebooking not required
- **Sandy Children's Centre SG19 1HQ**
Saturday 15 June, 9.30am - 3pm
APPOINTMENTS ONLY

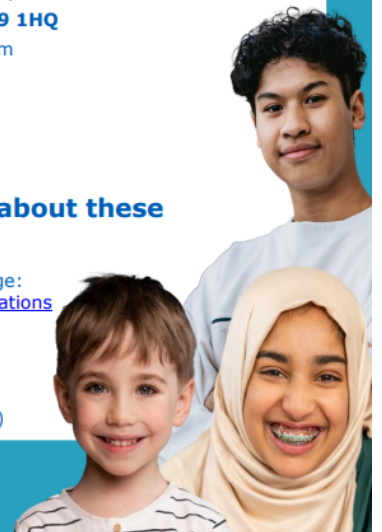
Do you have questions about these vaccinations?

Visit the NHS website vaccination page:
www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/

HPV** (from Year 8)
DTP & Meningitis ACWY (from Year 9)

**Eligible boys born after 01/09/2006

#DoYourBitBedfordshire



Learn to swim with Swift Swimmers at Beechwood Park!



Wednesday 18:00 - 20:00
Sunday 13:00 - 15:30

Learn to Swim!

- Small group sizes
- Fully qualified swim teachers with experience
- Group lessons for all ages and abilities
- Family run



Contact us

Email: enquiries@swiftswimmers.co.uk

Instagram - @swift_swimmers

Facebook - swiftswimmersswimschool

Enquire Today!

www.swiftswimmers.co.uk

Learn to swim with Swift Swimmers at Ardley Hill!



Tuesday 4pm-6pm

Join us today !!

- Small group sizes
- Fully qualified swim teachers with experience
- Group lessons for all ages and abilities
- Family run Swim school



Contact us

Email: enquiries@swiftswimmers.co.uk

Instagram - @swift_swimmers

Facebook - swiftswimmersswimschool

Enquire Today!

www.swiftswimmers.co.uk

From the Chaplain

Focus verse:

“Do not worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.” Philippians, chapter 4 verse 16

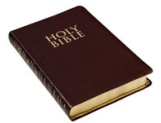
I wonder how many of us are feeling the pressure and/or stress in life? Maybe the impact of the cost of living, high price of fuel for our vehicles as well as for domestic use being at record highs, or even rail strikes, concerns about war in Russia/Ukraine or in Gaza/Israel/Palestine, perhaps long waiting lists for hospital appointments/diagnosis/operations, maybe you have anxieties over half-term/exams/tests etc. These are very real issues that concern many people.



Of course there are other times when we might stress about things that are either trivial or that we can't change anyway? I don't know about you but I tend to find it very easy to spot problems, difficulties, faults and failings, and then get easily entangled into a web of negativity and, unsurprisingly, we then succumb to frustration and disappointment primarily because we've had our focus on the bad stuff rather than the positive things. It becomes self-fulfilling. Either way this week we have the perfect antidote!



The context for this verse of Scripture is that it comes towards the end of a letter that St Paul wrote to the church in Philippi. After the main content of his letter he is beginning to sum up and include key things to remember. It shows its significance by not getting lost in the middle of the letter but rather including it in his concluding summing up, reminding his readers that, in God, we have someone and somewhere to offload any anxieties, stress, cares or worries.



Now people might ask what is the point in sharing your anxieties to something that you're not sure even exists, or, if He does, why would He be interested in me? It's a fair question. But actually sometimes sharing our thoughts can be a useful thing to do anyway, whether or not we think we have any religious affiliation. Sharing has been proven to help mental health. It can be anything that is causing us stress from the big questions to more mundane issues; pressures of education, work, home-life, relationships, finance, neighbours, friendships etc. If it is important to you then it's important enough to share either with a friend, or to God, or ideally both. Maybe there's something you need to share? If so, it's important to find someone suitable to share with.



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You that we can cast our burdens, stresses and anxieties on to You because You care for us. Thank You that You are personal enough to know and understand us, and love us so much that You want the best for us and not to be weighed down with concerns. Please help me to remember to offer the things to You which are on my heart which include... (insert any particular concerns). Please help me get through them and overcome them in Jesus' name. Amen.



Revd. Tim Davis
School Chaplain

Academic Calendar - 2023/2024

School Holiday	Bank Holiday	Pupil Day	Training Day		
September 2023					
Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tue	5	12	19	26	
Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	
October 2023					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tue	3	10	17	24	31
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat	7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29
November 2023					
Mon	6	13	20	27	
Tue	7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	
December 2023					
Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tue	5	12	19	26	
Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	31
January 2024					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	
February 2024					
Mon	5	12	19	26	
Tue	6	13	20	27	
Wed	7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	
Sat	3	10	17	24	
Sun	4	11	18	25	
March 2024					
Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tue	5	12	19	26	
Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	31
April 2024					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	
May 2024					
Mon	6	13	20	27	
Tue	7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	
June 2024					
Mon	3	10	17	24	
Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	2	9	16	23	30
July 2024					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	
August 2024					
Mon	5	12	19	26	
Tue	6	13	20	27	
Wed	7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	4	11	18	25	

Academic Calendar - 2024/2025



School Holiday	Bank Holiday	Pupil Day	Training Day		
September 2024					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tue	3	10	17	24	
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat	7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29
October 2024					
Mon	7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	
November 2024					
Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tue	5	12	19	26	
Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	
December 2024					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tue	3	10	17	24	31
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat	7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29
January 2025					
Mon	6	13	20	27	
Tue	7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	
February 2025					
Mon	3	10	17	24	
Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	
Sun	2	9	16	23	
March 2025					
Mon	3	10	17	24	31
Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	2	9	16	23	30
April 2025					
Mon	7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	
May 2025					
Mon	5	12	19	26	
Tue	6	13	20	27	
Wed	7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	4	11	18	25	
June 2025					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tue	3	10	17	24	
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat	7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29
July 2025					
Mon	7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	
August 2025					
Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tue	5	12	19	26	
Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	31