

Dear Parents and Students

Our last full week of school this term is nearing completion, and I am very much looking forward to our 'Awards' assemblies next week, in which we present students with their bronze/silver/gold badges for their ACE point totals, celebrate our 'Stars of the Term', and announce the current standings in the House Championship. In year 9 we have several students who have now accumulated 500 ACE points since starting GWA and will be presented with our first Platinum badges – a fantastic achievement. It's very heartening that despite all the challenges of the current time we still have so much positive success to celebrate.

#### **Other updates this week:**

**Sixth Form Open Evening** This would have taken place yesterday for current year 11 students. Instead we launched our virtual information and tour here: [www.gwacademy.co.uk/sixth-form](http://www.gwacademy.co.uk/sixth-form). Please do share this with as many families with year 11 students as you know and encourage them to contact us. A thriving and growing Sixth Form is extremely important for the school, and it was excellent to receive several applications yesterday. Thank you for your support in spreading the word.

- **Oxbridge Applicants** We always aim high here, and I'm delighted to report that some of our highest attaining students have now had their UCAS forms sent – in fact over 10% of year 13 have applied to either Oxford or Cambridge, which is very high in comparison to most state Sixth Forms. Obviously we are supporting all our year 13 students at this important time, but these applicants had to meet an early deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> October, and we wish them well!
- **Keeping Warm** As promised we have reviewed our uniform in the light of classrooms sometimes being colder than usual at the moment. We have decided that from after half term, as a temporary measure, students will be able to wear a jumper if desired. This needs to be a **black, v-neck 'school' jumper or cardigan, with no logos**. Some links to suitable jumpers are given below – similar items to these will be accepted. We will, as usual, review the arrangements going forwards, and I emphasise this is not compulsory. Students will continue to be outside at break times (unless it's wet) for safety reasons so do please ensure they bring a coat to school too. If finance for these items is a concern at the moment please contact your son or daughter's Head of House.

<https://direct.asda.com/george/school/jumpers-sweatshirts/black-v-neck-school-jumper-2-pack/GEM704198,default,pd.html?cgid=D10M1G1C14>

[https://www.marksandspencer.com/unisex-cotton-rich-jumper/p/clp60108527?color=NAVY#intid=plpnav\\_swatch](https://www.marksandspencer.com/unisex-cotton-rich-jumper/p/clp60108527?color=NAVY#intid=plpnav_swatch)  
(in black)

[https://www.matalan.co.uk/product/detail/s2642846\\_c101/boys-school-jumper-3-13yrs-black](https://www.matalan.co.uk/product/detail/s2642846_c101/boys-school-jumper-3-13yrs-black)

<https://www.next.co.uk/g243548s4/191255#191255>

- **Parents' homework information** Last week we successfully launched the parent digest homework email showing students turned in work from the previous week, and details of work due in the coming week. If you did not receive this email then please do check your junk folder as some emails have been misfiled. If this doesn't locate it then please log any issues or concerns using this link: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3mVIDaJf4UCjYFRh0FpF2BKb-F-fF5pEkUg\\_JVluX\\_RUQ1FLVDMxUTBYTFQ3MVIyNINNNFpNOTMxQi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3mVIDaJf4UCjYFRh0FpF2BKb-F-fF5pEkUg_JVluX_RUQ1FLVDMxUTBYTFQ3MVIyNINNNFpNOTMxQi4u)
- **Year 9 Drama Performance** Just a reminder about this event on 11<sup>th</sup> November – we are short of some contributions still, please see Parent Pay for details.
- **Headphones** Usually we do not allow headphones in school. However, in terms of being ready for 'blended' learning (if a teacher is self-isolating) it could be very helpful if students had a simple, in-ear set which could be plugged into their laptops to access any lessons being taught by a teacher remotely.

This will be our last update of the term, unless there are any further essential announcements we need to make next week. Just to confirm, school finishes 4.15pm on Wednesday next week and we return at 8.30am on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November (Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> is a teacher training day). **Thank you hugely for your support in this challenging term**; it's been great to be back. Enjoy the break when it arrives.

Graham Davis, Principal