

# Parent Newsletter



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## ‘HEADLINES’

Dear Parents

Welcome to our April newsletter. The focus this term is inevitably on the new building and as long as all continues to plan we will take possession on 23rd June and begin the kitting out process. We want our current community to get first sight of the building before we officially open and plan to hold a preview day exclusively for Parents of current pupils on 11th July. Students will be on hand to take parents on tours throughout the day and after school until 5.00pm.

We wish to pass on our huge congratulations to Bella Holman who has been selected to join the National karate squad. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the hours of effort and commitment she puts into this. If any other students are successful in out of school activities we would love to hear the stories and add the to the wall of fame gallery at reception.

May has a significant charity focus with each of the houses chosen charities coming in to talk about themselves and begin our work to support these great causes.

Lastly in preparation for next year there is a link to a short survey on the back page which we would ask parents to complete if they have not already done so and we also would ask for your feedback on the changes to the school day that will be under consideration for September in the new building (at parents evening).

Ben Godber

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Term dates for 2017-18 have been approved by the Local Governing Body and are as follows:

<b>Autumn Term</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> September – 21 <sup>st</sup> December (Term will start for both year 7 and 8 on Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September at 8.40am) Half term w/b 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
<b>Spring Term</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> January – 29 <sup>th</sup> March Half term w/b 12 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Summer Term</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> April – 27 <sup>th</sup> July (NB - attendance in the week beginning 23 <sup>rd</sup> July only applies to Summer Camp students. For all others school will end at 12.55pm on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July) Half term w/b 28 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>INSET dates: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September + 3 others dates to be confirmed</b>

## How to Ensure Your Child is Fulfilling Their Potential: A Parents' Information Evening 18th June (4:30:5:30)

### Using language at home that encourages your child to reach their potential

We would like to invite you to a parents' information evening on 18th May 2017 at 4:30pm-5:30pm. The session will be led by Education Consultant, Jonathan Hannam along with Miss Oakes and the topic of the evening will be on 'Using language at home that encourages your child to reach their potential.' Jonathan specialises in the psychology of having a 'Growth Mindset' versus a 'Fixed Mindset' and how adapting the way we think about failure and mistakes can unlock the key to success.



As a school, we encourage our students to be resilient, independent and innovative thinkers. In order to encompass these traits, it is important to have a Growth Mindset opposed to a Fixed Mindset. In short, this means that students don't give up at the first hurdle in their learning, have a 'can do' attitude and see failure as a learning opportunity rather than something negative. On the 18th of May, students will have a whole day dedicated to the teaching of what it means to have a Growth Mindset, this is also part of our everyday culture. They will be using the climbing wall, drama, scientific experiments and reflecting on their own mindset and how it helps or hinders their learning.

Thank you for your support in helping us to ensure that we have a Growth Mindset culture within our school. We look forward to welcoming you on the 18th of May. If you would like to research this further, we recommend the below link and wider reading:

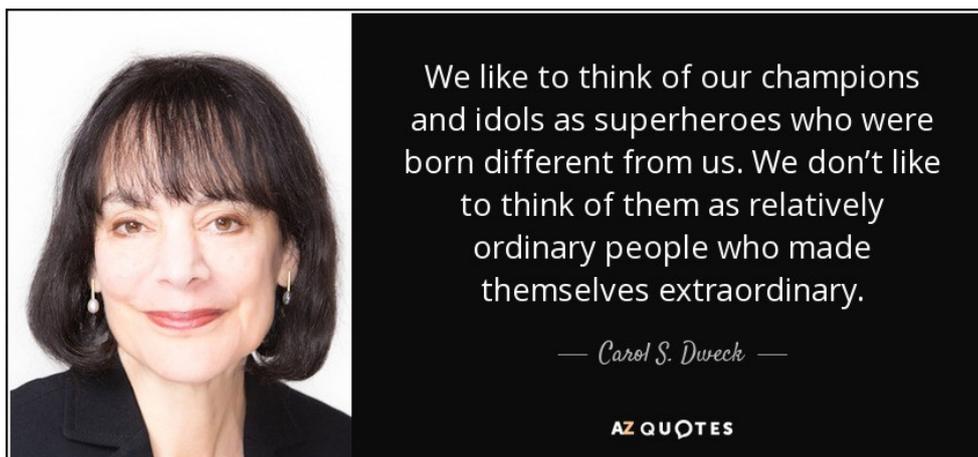
Carol Dweck TED talk <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIDZNDF-aZ>

Carol Dweck: Mindset How to fulfill your potential

Matthew Syed: Bounce: The Myth of Talent and the Power of Practice

Matthew Syed: Black Box Thinking: Marginal Gains and the Secrets of High Performance

Keely Oakes—Head of English



## Parent Survey – Curriculum Development

During year 8 we will start our GCSE options process with students starting to think about the courses they may wish to study in Year 9 onwards. Before that however we are looking at some curriculum developments for 2017-18 which may be of interest to you and your child. Priority is being given to current pupils but will then be opened up to the new year 7 in September where/if spaces remain as appropriate.

**CLiL in Year 8.** A Bohunt trademark for several years has been the teaching of additional French through another subject. This is known as content and language integrated learning. We are looking at running our own pilot next year by teaching PSRE in French. Please note that we need to have sufficient numbers to make a teaching group viable.

**LAMDA.** Lamda is a national drama qualification which is assessed and graded in a similar way to private music lessons from grades 1 to 9. It is a qualification which at grade 6 and above is recognised with a UCAS points tariff. There are very few schools which offer Lamda locally or nationally and we are keen to add it to our range of co-curricular opportunities. Lamda lessons will be run very similarly to private music lessons, typically 25 minutes in length and run on a 1:1 basis. We anticipate that a course would include a lesson per week over about 15 school weeks and cost £220 including the exam entry fee. Students will be assessed to establish their starting grade, which is typically around grade 2 or 3 for 12 year olds.

**Computer science.** Next year students will continue to study computing in STEM lessons, but we will be offering additional computer science through after school lessons for those students who think they might want to study computer sciences at GCSE. There will be an expectation that students who wish to participate will need to sign up for a full term of lessons. The course will require a £20 sign-up fee.

**Mandarin.** As you know students currently have a lesson each week of mandarin. This is a Bohunt commitment and will continue in year 8. Some students may be thinking about continuing Mandarin at GCSE and to help prepare students for this we will be offering after school extension mandarin for those who are interested.

**Music.** This year we have used Berkshire Maestro's to run music lessons but due to a delay in their response to the school last summer, there were only a limited number of lessons offered. Next year we anticipate demand will be higher and therefore to help them plan their provision we would ask that you let us know if you have any interest in your child learning an instrument on the survey.

Can parents please complete the following survey on Doodle to let us know what/if any interest you have in the courses described above. <https://doodle.com/poll/muuf2q5buxn56bzd>