

# PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

6th December 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There is always a sense of achievement within school when we reach the end of the autumn term. Not only is it the longest, it's also the term during which new students have to find their feet, navigate new routines and expectations, make new friends and so forth. Existing students have to adapt to new courses and, of course, there is a huge and varied menu of concerts and events (large and small) to prepare, rehearse and produce. This past term has been no exception and has felt busier than ever in so many ways. But the achievements of our students continue to amaze, humble and delight in equal measure. I am also so impressed and inspired by the way our students throw themselves at everything in such a fully committed way and it's this that allows us to achieve so much of such quality. It's been extraordinarily busy (and exhausting) and also rewarding and uplifting. By every measure - and especially in terms of student feedback (which is overwhelmingly and consistently positive) - the school has never been happier or more productive. I've always believed that if the vast majority of people are happy for the vast majority of the time, that's about as good as any institution can get. We are all human and therefore all suffer the ups and downs of being human, and so if we can get most things right, for most people, most of the time, that's a good sign of success. On balance (and by all objective measures), I think we've achieved this throughout the term.

Our young people have worked incredibly hard throughout the term and have achieved so much. They are in need of some rest. I would therefore ask that alongside getting some revision done for mocks (where these apply) and maintaining their practice, they are also encouraged to take some time out and to recharge their batteries. No young person has infinite resources and time invested in healthy relaxation will pay dividends in the long-term.

As you will be aware, our term ends on Friday 13th December following our final full school assembly of the term which will end at 12 noon. Sadly, we don't have enough space within the school that is large enough to be able to invite you all to join us for the assembly, but we will be providing a light buffet lunch for students, staff and parents in the Dining Hall between 12 noon and 1pm for those (especially those with long journeys) who wish to join us.

It only remains to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a very happy Christmas and holiday.

## Lunchtime Concerts

We are always delighted when parents attend lunchtime concerts in the Recital Room and greatly appreciate your ongoing support for these wonderful events.

To ensure the safety and

security of all students and staff, I kindly remind all visitors to report to reception upon arrival, even if you have parked in the rear car park. It is essential that all visitors are signed in before proceeding to the Recital Room. Once signed

in, staff will then escort groups to the concert.

When walking to reception, I ask that you please use the path around the outside of the school buildings and enter via the front reception door.

## Mock Exams

Mock exams for Years 11 and 13 will take place during the week beginning 20th January. This is a valuable opportunity for our students to experience taking a full exam under proper exam conditions, which will help prepare them for their final exams in the summer. In early January, Ms. Murphy, our

Exams Officer, and Mr. Long will hold an assembly to discuss general expectations and provide important information. Students will receive their individual exam timetables on Wednesday 11th December. To ensure our students are well-prepared, all academic teachers have been asked to

provide revision material to support their studies over the holiday period. We encourage students to make the most of this time to revise and seek support if needed. We wish all our students the best of luck in their preparation and success in their exams.

## Let's All Talk Mental Health

We're proud to offer families access to the **Let's All Talk Mental Health** hub featuring a range of insightful sessions designed to help you better understand common challenges teens face and provide practical guidance on how to support them. Topics covered this term include:

- **Friendship Issues**
- **Teen Neurodiversity**
- **Eating Disorders**
- **Teens and their Online World**

- **Teen ADHD**
- **Autism & School Avoidance**
- **Difficult Conversations with a Teen**
- **Teen's and School/ Academic Pressure**
- **OCD**

**If you've missed any of the sessions – don't worry.**

There is a library of 60+ programmes available on-demand, so you can catch up at a time that suits you.

### Access the Let's All Talk Mental Health?

If you are new to the Let's All Talk Mental Health hub, please register for your pass here [Purcell Access Link](#). If you've previously registered, then head over to the [LATMH](#) hub.

You can contact the team at [hello@letsalltalkmentalhealth.co.uk](mailto:hello@letsalltalkmentalhealth.co.uk) if you need any assistance accessing the hub.

We hope you find these resources useful.

With all good wishes



Paul Bambrough  
Principal

