

## Dear Parents and Carers

### Assemblies

Year group assemblies this week have been led by the Sixth Form students who visited Poland. The assembly theme has been 'The Power of Words' and has commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day which marks the day that Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated. Pupils have been encouraged to reflect on the power and impact of their words towards each other. Year 9 pupils designed a memorial as part of an RE project which is on display in reception.



### Equality

Over the last two weeks pupils and staff have been invited to take part in a survey regarding equality at Sir John Talbot's. As a school we are committed to providing equal and fair opportunity for all and want to ensure these values are instilled in all of our pupils. The results of our equality survey were overwhelmingly positive but it is clear there is still some way to go in ensuring that these values extend to every aspect of school life. Monday sees the launch of our newly formed 'Equality Group' – all pupils are encouraged to attend to contribute their ideas and take a stand against all forms of prejudice and discrimination both inside and outside of school. The first meeting takes place in Miss Webb's room during Academic Mentoring on Monday 5 February.

### Social media

In line with this week's assembly theme 'The Power of Words' pupils must not only be considering the impact of their words in person but also their words online. Although phones, tablets and computers which can access the internet can be excellent when used in the right way they can pose a risk if not used correctly. Please support us in educating your child about potential risks of the internet such as apps which share your location, online gaming with strangers and cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is a criminal offence and pupils must be aware that the messages, comments, pictures and videos that they post online could have serious consequences. Also a reminder that phones should be switched off in bags during the school day, including social time. Pupils who are found to have taken pictures in school and uploaded these to social media will face exclusions as this poses a serious safeguarding risk.

### Planners

Please ensure that you are signing your child's planner weekly. Please also take this opportunity to view the planner and have discussions with your child regarding homework, organisation and time management. The yellow pages in the planner are the SMART card and will indicate any areas for improvement your child needs to make in terms of their organisation, getting to school on time and uniform. Although the Milk app is primarily used for details about homework, pupils should at least be writing the subject and due date in their planner whenever homework is set. All policies at the front of the planner should have been signed by both the pupil and parent/carer.

Miss Webb, Head of Key Stage 3 and Mrs Apperley Head of Key Stage 4

### Reminders

If your child is absent for any reason, please let us know by 8.30am. Call the School on 01948 660600 and choose option 1. Please leave your child's name, tutor group and reason for absence. Please remember to inform us if you have changed any of your contact details, including email address. **Recording of telephone calls:** We wish to advise you that calls to and from the school, may be recorded for training and monitoring purposes.

### Term Dates 2018 – 2019

Term dates for the academic year 2018 – 2019 can be found online [here](#).

## Whitchurch 10K Registration Open Now

Please follow [this link](#) to register your place on this year's Whitchurch 10K taking place on Sunday 8 April.

## Whitchurch 10K in Conjunction with Whitchurch Whippets

Whitchurch Whippets are organising special training runs for the 10k each Sunday from Sir John Talbot's School in the lead up to the event. Schedule as follows:

- Sunday 11 February - 3 miles
- Sunday 18 February - 3 miles
- Sunday 25 February - 4 miles
- Sunday 4 March - 4 miles
- Sunday 11 March - 5 miles
- Sunday 18 March - 5 miles
- Sunday 25 March - 10k course

If you would like to join the training runs, simply email [parsons.k@marchesschool.net](mailto:parsons.k@marchesschool.net) to confirm you will be attending.

## Upcoming Events

- 4 February – Year 12 and 13 Mock Exams
- 6 February – Conover Netball Trip Meeting 5.30pm
- 7 February – France Ski Trip at the **Marches School** 6pm
- 7 February – Brussels Trip drop in session 3.15pm to 5pm
- 9 February – Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening 5pm
- 16 February – Year 11 Photograph's

## Child Sexual Exploitation

A Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Awareness Session was held for parents and carers recently. Child sexual exploitation is a fairly rare form of sexual, emotional and physical abuse of children. Knowing the signs and being aware of the support available can help to equip parents and carers with the knowledge and tools to act.

### Some of the tips discussed were:

- Talk to your internet provider about parental controls (they will advise)
- Monitor internet use/spot checks
- Keep devices out of children's bedrooms at night (also aids sleep)
- Look out for changes in behaviour
- Encourage conversations about safety with your children

### The following are resources for protecting children:

- Report suspicious activity online: [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk) (click CEOP)
- 24 hour confidential helpline for children and young people CHILDLINE 0800 1111

### Advice and information on protecting children from abuse online:

- [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- YouTube clips to explore with children - how they can keep safe online out and about: [www.youtube.co.uk/ceop](http://www.youtube.co.uk/ceop)
- LOCAL SUPPORT: Shropshire Council Concerns Line 0345 678 9021
- Public Protection Unit (West Mercia Police): 0300 333 3000

## North Shropshire Football Tournament

Last week Year 7 pupils entered the U12 7-a-side North Shropshire Football Tournament. The team won 2-1 in the final against Lakelands Academy.



## U13 Rugby

Boys in Years 7 and 8 won 55 – 10 against Thomas Adams School in a rugby match. Mark Morgan scored a hat-trick. This is the first rugby county cup win for SJT!



## The Talbot Theatre

**North Shropshire Folk** - Moore Moss Rutter - Saturday 10 February 8.00 p.m.

**Going in Style** - Thursday 13 February 7.30pm

**Loving Vincent** - Tuesday 20 February 7.30pm

## Cricket Success



Year 13 student Ashleigh Heath has been selected to go on a cricket tour to South Africa with Warwickshire Development Squad Cricket Team. This is the first time that Ashleigh will have travelled abroad!