

12th February 2024

End of Spring Half Term 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the first spring half term draws to a close, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your ongoing support. School will close for the February half term break on Friday 16th February with students being dismissed at the usual time of **3.10pm**. We return on Monday 26th February 2024.

We have had an extremely successful half term with students focused on learning and doing their best every single day. Following our Ofsted inspection in November, I invited inspectors back into school last week, to gain additional evidence. The students were fantastic and I look forward to being able to share the report with you at the beginning of March, which recognises the progress we have made and the journey we are on.

There have been many amazing events that have taken place this half term as a result of the hard work, dedication and resilience of our staff and students, including success in rowing for Year 8 through our partnership with Chester Schools Together, visits for Year 11 to Wales for their Geography coursework, celebrations for Chinese New Year, students signing up to go to Kenya with Camps International in 2025, and students speaking to the Cheshire International Links Association at the Town Hall, following our award from the British Council for our international work.

We have had a variety of sporting activities and events each week and we continue to develop and offer enriching opportunities and experiences for all, both at lunchtime and after school. We currently have a total of 56 clubs on offer and so far 54% of all students have been involved in these. 99% of Year 11 have attended a club and we are delighted that so many students have been accessing period 6 in support of preparation for their examinations this summer. We ask that you encourage your child to become involved in the enrichment programme which can be found on our website:

<https://www.blaconhighschool.net/page/?title=Extra%2DCurricular&pid=58>

I am sad to inform you that our former Chair of Governors, Mr David Peachey, has passed away. David was a superb member of our Governing Board for many years and holds a special place in my heart as he was the person who appointed me to the role of Headteacher, back in October 2018 when he was the Chair of Governors.

I always valued David's wisdom, honesty and integrity; he had an ability to make others feel at ease, enabling everyone to contribute. When David stepped down as a Governor, he said '*in truth, I got so much more out of being a governor than I put in*', a reflection of his humility.

We were all very sad to hear this news and I wanted to share this image of David pictured on the front left of our 2019 strategic plan which we developed together, stood on the grass where our new building now stands. It is rare for someone to possess so many qualities and I am grateful that both I personally and all at Blacon High School, have been a part of David's life and service.



**'Those we love, don't go away, they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.'**

We are thinking of Mrs Peachey and the family at this sad time and grateful for all that David gave to the community of Blacon.

School Vaccination Programme

The Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio (Td/IPV) & Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccinations are being offered to all students in Year 9, and those students in Years 10 and 11 who previously missed this. The Td/IPV and MenACWY vaccination programme is scheduled for: **Thursday 29th February** and the school code is: CP111396. Please submit consent [here](#) by midday on Tuesday 27th February to ensure that your child receives the vaccination.

Now is a good time to check if your child has had 2 doses of the MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccine. If you think your child is outstanding their MMR vaccinations, please contact the immunisation team on 01244 397470 to arrange an appointment.

Local Authority Household Support Fund

For eligible families of children in receipt of free school meals, a £15 school holiday food voucher will be issued in the usual way for the February half term break. Additional support and advice is available for anyone who is struggling to pay their bills, requires debt advice or whose health has been affected by the rising cost of living: <http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/cost-of-living>

Key dates for spring term 2024

- 28th February, Year 11 Food Technology practical exam
- 29th February, Year 9 vaccinations (plus mop-ups in Years 10 and 11)
- 7th March, *World Book Day*
- 7th March, Year 9 Options Evening
- 8th March, *International Women's Day*
- 8th – 17th March 2024, *British Science Week*
- 14th March, Year 9 Progress Evening
- 15th March, *Red Nose Day / Comic Relief*
- 18th – 24th March, *Shakespeare Week*
- 23rd March, *International Day of Maths*

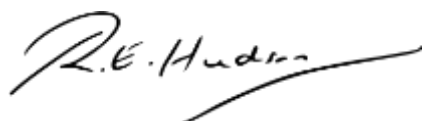
If your child cycles to school, please can I urge you to ensure that they wear a safety helmet. School promotes that, for their own safety, all students cycling to and from school should wear appropriate head protection.

If you haven't already done so, I would like to invite you to download the school app or log-in via the [EduLink One](#) website to ensure that there is effective communication between school and home.

Finally, we are extremely proud to inform you that one of our staff has been awarded a Doctorate from the University of Chester following 7 years of intensive work and so we now have Dr Julie Salisbury in Drama.

From all staff and governors, we wish you a restful and enjoyable half term break and look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready to work hard over the next half term.

Regards,



Rachel Hudson
Headteacher