

Headteacher Bulletin 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

As we end the first half of the Spring Term, may I thank everyone for their continued support. I would also like to remind students to stay safe and well during the half term, and inform their parents as to their whereabouts during the holiday.

### **Year 11**

This half term holiday is an important revision period for Year 11. They should have made a revision timetable, have all the required revision materials available to work through to close their learning gaps after their recent mocks. Students should be aware from the information that was given with the mock results which topics within each subject that require further practice as they will have been through their papers in lesson or have their Question Level Analysis given to them by their teacher. For those students invited to Impress the Examiner sessions, as a reminder, they continue to run on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Attendance – Everyone’s Responsibility**

I am delighted that attendance to date for this academic year has consistently been above national average. I will be sending out attendance texts during the holiday detailing the number of sessions of absence each student has had this half term, and their attendance to date. Students will get an attendance letter detailing each half term's attendance when they return after the holiday.

### **Year 9 Options**

Thank you to the parents and students who attended the Year 9 Options Evening, I hope you found the information useful. The deadline to complete the form is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Picking up and dropping off students to school**

We kindly remind all families not to use the school car park for dropping off or picking up children at the start and end of the school day. Using the car park for drop-offs and pick-ups has been causing significant congestion, which in turn is blocking access for vehicles travelling to and from Priestly Smith School. We understand that mornings and afternoons can be busy times, but your cooperation is essential in keeping traffic flowing safely and smoothly for everyone. Your support helps ensure the safety of all our pupils.

### **Safeguarding**

We are proud to link with an organisation called COMPASS, they offer support and guidance for children and families who might be struggling with anxiety, emotional wellbeing or past trauma. We can make referrals for children to COMPASS and to date they have supported many of our students, you can also refer directly to COMPASS as parents and carers, please use this link to find out more information and also make a referral. If you would like school to make a referral on your behalf please contact your child's Year Group Coordinator, Claire Kilroy (DSL) or Danielle

### **Safer Internet Day**

This year, we worked with students on the theme for Safer internet Day - *'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'*. We encourage you to join us in celebrating by continuing the conversation about AI technology at home. Here are some helpful resources:

- You can complete the [UK Safer Internet Centre's interactive quizzes](#) with your child.
- Read the UK Safer Internet Centre's tops tips for parents and carers [here](#).
- You can share the UK Safer Internet Centre's [top tips for children and young people](#) with your child.
- You may also like to use one of these prompts to start a conversation with your child:
  - What's your favourite thing to do online?
  - Have you ever used an AI tool? How did it make you feel?
  - What do you like about AI technology?
  - Do you have any worries about AI technology?
  - What advice would you give to your friends about using AI?
  - Who would you talk to if you saw something worrying online?
  - What more can I do to help you feel safe online?

### **Return to school**

School will re-open on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> at the normal time, with students in immaculate school uniform.

When we return after half term, students will spend time in form time and Period 1 reminding themselves of standards and expectations during Our Arena Way. Students will practise key learning and teaching techniques that support their learning and progression across the curriculum.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term holiday.

Kind regards  
Mr Mann