



Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you are all well. There has been so much to celebrate this first term. As one would expect, the atmosphere around school is well ordered, positive and purposeful, with the overwhelming majority of students meeting or exceeding expectations. Our recent Year 6 Open Evening for prospective parents was a very positive event; Mrs Morrill and I were inundated with compliments about the students who helped with the tours of the school, with parents commenting about how positive, genuine, and sincere they were in their depiction of life as a Fernwood student. When Mrs Morrill asked for volunteers to help at this important event, she had offers of support from over 150 students across all years; this really demonstrates the pride that our young people have in their school.

This half term we have also appointed our Year 11 prefects and, following the election, announced our new Head and Deputy Head Boys and Girls. Staff and students in Year 11 in the assembly all applauded their peers' achievements; it was a real celebration of this cohort's achievements to date. In addition to this, the Drama and Dance Shakespearean evening this week was phenomenal. I feel so very proud of the students here at Fernwood.

Non-Uniform Day

This will take place on Friday 14th October. All proceeds will go to support the ongoing tragedy that the floods have caused in Pakistan. Please use ParentPay to make a contribution. Given the cost-of-living crisis we understand that you may not be able to contribute; your child can still join in the non-uniform day. A suggested donation is £1. You can of course always give more generously if you are able.

Vape Update

I am encouraged by the many emails from parents who have identified adults who have been trying to sell in the locality. The police are now dealing with those reports. Furthermore, it is a credit to students at Fernwood who have also reported what they have seen. Please can I reinforce the need for parents to monitor **internet activity** and to ensure it is not accessible at bedtime. Mrs Gray, Head of Personal Development, has asked me to share the following information, plus a helpful website link:

"It is estimated that each year around 207,000 children in the UK start smoking, with almost 40% starting to smoke regularly before the age of 16. As a city, research suggests that we have higher than the national average levels of smoking. In response, as part of our Personal Development curriculum we have engaged in an evidence based smoking prevention programme, which works by first getting adolescents to engage with anti-smoking messages, then creating Personal Plans about how to refuse the offer of cigarettes, vapes etc.

<https://ash.org.uk/resources/view/use-of-e-cigarettes-among-young-people-in-great-britain>

New school website

The new school website is up and running (www.fernwood.school) after a lot of work behind the scenes; we are very pleased with the information now available to parents and the wider community as we continue to grow. I hope too that the Arbor app is helping to keep you better informed. There is still more to do both in terms of the app and the website to celebrate the many positives and we will continue to develop both areas.

High Achievement with Care & Discipline for All

Kind regards,

Paul Burke, Headteacher



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