

10th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It has good to see our pupils and students back in school this week. For the most part it has been an excellent start to the second half of the Autumn Term. One of the highlights of the week has been our first Parents' Evening for this year, for Years 12 and 13. The next one is for Year 10 Parents, on Wednesday 22nd November, between 5 and 7.30pm.

One reason for this letter is to give you advance notice of some changes we want to make to our Rewards system. During the first half of the Autumn Term, Mr Badu, Assistant Headteacher at Chiswick School, kindly offered to come into the school and help us review the current system of rewards and work out with us how to improve it. As part of this work he spoke with both pupils and staff about what changes might be needed. We are grateful to the Headteacher of Chiswick School, Mrs Ellener, for supporting this work. This is Mr Badu's explanation of the outcome of his review:

We are excited to announce some changes to our school's rewards system in line with Archbishop Tenison's Church of England High School's Christian educational vision. Our primary goal is to cultivate a nurturing and caring community where every student is equally valued. This updated rewards system is designed to recognise and motivate students across various aspects, including academic excellence, personal growth, cultural enrichment, physical well-being, and the development of strong moral values.

Furthermore, this system will encourage students to make meaningful contributions to the broader community, prepare them for their future endeavours, promote empathy and understanding among diverse backgrounds, and enhance our overall learning culture. It will stand as a testament to our school's commitment to mutual respect, common purpose, and our motto, 'Tenaciter – Academic excellence for each person as part of a Christian community.' Additionally, it will uphold the core values of courtesy, calmness, concentration, confidence, and consideration.

Commencing from Monday, 13th November, we will launch our new rewards system. Under this system, your child will have increased opportunities to earn merits both inside and outside of lessons. These merits will be attributed to their respective houses, contributing to our house system, which plays a crucial role in fostering a united and supportive school community.

As part of this new rewards system, we will introduce house events each term, along with a dedicated rewards week. During this week, your child will have the opportunity to participate in specific activities based on the number of merits they have earned. These activities will help them further engage with the school community and their fellow students, contributing to their holistic growth.

We will be sharing this vision with pupils and students over the next week, and then beginning to explain what it will mean in practice. Our three Senior Pastoral Leaders: Mr Rushton, Ms Kuffour and Mr Humphreys, have all been working closely with Mr Badu on the proposed updating and will play a significant role in its implementation. If you also have thoughts about this, please let one of them know.

Over the last few years, we have done much work to update and improve our discipline policy, but so far we have not done much work on the rewards aspect of that. This is an attempt to put that right, and to make sure that the genuine efforts of many pupils are much better recognised.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Parrish Headteacher

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