

4th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 9 scholars,

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I am always conscious to ensure that the year group have been provided with at least two opportunities to reflect on the challenges that many within society face and what practical things we can do to combat these problems. I am personally very proud of the sensitivity shown from the scholars within the year group in acknowledging the pressures within our local community, especially as we edge closer toward the festive season.

Already this half term, a selection of Super Scholar Leaders within each tutor group helped to plan and deliver a charity House basketball tournament. In lieu of Men's Mental Health month in November, all proceeds gathered during this tournament were collected for MIND. The support shown amongst scholars for this initiative was phenomenal and I am looking forward to informing you of the final figure collected at the end of term.

In an assembly this week I discussed the difficulties that many face in the approach to Christmas and during the winter season. As I am sure you may feel as parents and carers yourself, the festive season can often be a stressful time where we seem to put additional pressure on ourselves to have everything just right. Once again, scholars and staff across the school community are being encouraged to bring in items that will be donated to our local foodbank, Bexley Foodbank. The final day for scholars to donate to this cause is on Monday, 16th December. Please help us work together to support our community by supporting your scholar in bringing in a donation to the collection. A list of urgent and surplus products can be found on the Bexley Foodbank website: <u>https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/</u>. Please note that food containing alcohol, including mince pies and Christmas puddings are not accepted and all donations should be dropped off and collated in the tutor room.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the continuous support you have shown your scholar in this first term of the academic year. Year 9 have had a brilliant start to this academic year and I look forward to developing further opportunities to give back to the community alongside the scholars themselves.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Sarah Stevens Head of Year 9

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