

29 September 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

I have been delighted to see so many students responding very positively to the recent Community Minded focus, with many students going above and beyond to help keep our school site tidy. Year 7 and 8 students hold the lead for the number of merit points awarded so far this year!

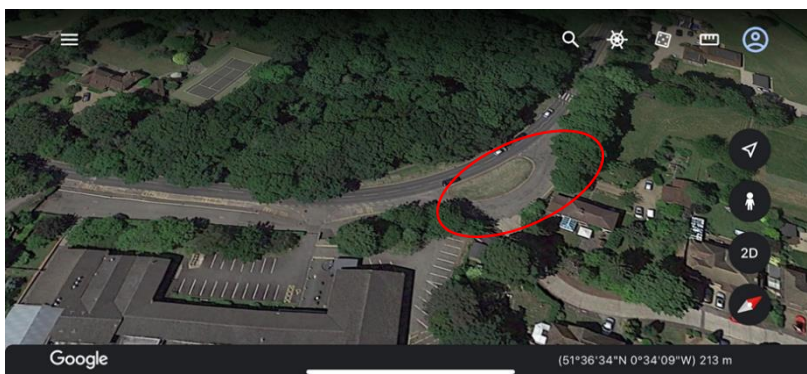
We have bonus weeks across the year when triple merit points can be achieved. There have been triple merit points this week in Maths for being Committed, one of our core values. Next week students will be able to gain triple merit points for their commitment in English. I am sure there will be many parents praising their children for receiving these merit points and other commendations.

Arbor - Keeping you informed

Please ensure that you have the Arbor App installed on your phone to receive up to date information on your child. You can check in on your child's attendance, behaviour, merit points and progress. It is also a good idea to allow notifications for the App, so you get the latest information quickly. You will have received an email with information on setting up your Arbor access. There is further information in this link: [Log into the Parent Portal and the Arbor App – Arbor Help Centre \(arbor-education.com\)](https://arbor-education.com)

Drop off and Collection Points

We urge all parents/carers who are collecting or dropping off students, to not park in the area detailed below at the front of the school. This turning circle is specifically for buses, and if you were to park there this would cause a safety concern and traffic congestion as our buses will not be able to reach their pick up and drop off point forcing them into the road causing a danger to other road users and pedestrians. Your cooperation is appreciated.



Vaping

In the UK, the proportion of 11 to 18-year-olds who vape doubled between 2020 and 2022. That figure has continued to rise – a worrying trend that's not exactly been countered by frequent portrayals of vaping as fashionable on social media platforms.

Many young vapers simply aren't aware of the habit's potential pitfalls – but with risks including unregulated products, toxic ingredients and future nicotine addiction, there's plenty for trusted adults to help children understand. We take this very seriously and I encourage you to read the attached information on the dangers of vaping.

Open Evening 11 October 2023

We will be opening our doors to parents of Year 6 on 11 October and your child may wish to support their school community by acting as a subject ambassador or a tour guide on this evening. If your child is helping on this evening it is essential to sign the consent form. Please note the school day will finish early on 11 October at 12.35pm to enable staff to make preparations for the evening.

Black History Month

October is Black History Month and it is something that we celebrate every year. This year's theme is 'Saluting our Sisters' and is focused on celebrating Black Women's often overlooked achievements and incredible contributions to society. Students will have assemblies next week exploring this theme, tutor time activities and competitions they can get involved in.

It was great to meet with Year 7 parents who attended the information evening last night. I look forward to our next information evening, on 5 October for Year 8 parents. Thank you to the PTA for providing refreshments.

I hope you have a pleasant weekend ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Whitehead
Principal