



31 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

All of us live busy lives, and sometimes we forget to pause and really talk to the people around us. The last two weeks has really shown how much we miss when we do not take the opportunity to do this.

Last week, on behalf on the College, I attended the funeral of Professor Alan Rodgers, at Cambridge Crematorium. Alan had been a Governor and then Trustee within the MET for a large number of years, and as Witchford Village College's Trustee has been immensely supportive of the College and its goals for the future. It was with surprise that during the various eulogies, the career, beliefs and adventures that Alan had had in his life, were shared. He was a member and ultimately leader of the British Antarctic expedition, publisher of over 99 scientific papers on the ionosphere and climate change, as well as someone whose list of countries visited, far outweighed those left to visit. It is with regret that we do not take time to find these things out before it is too late, by taking the time to talk and discover. This is something we all can do in our lives, and something we are encouraging our students to do in particular.

On a much larger scale, we also reflected this week on Holocaust Memorial Day. Again, by discussing and reflecting on issues and events such as this, we learn together about not only the dark moments in our history, but also the compassion and bravery shown by individuals who stand up for what is right.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that routine medical and dental appointments should not normally be taken during the school day. We are increasingly seeing students absent for much of a day when they attend appointments, missing valuable learning.

Between the 3rd and the 9th of February we will be marking National Apprenticeship Week. During form time on this week, all students will be given information about apprenticeships and take part in an interactive quiz. Cambridge Regional College will be attending during lunchtime on the 4th February with some apprentices to talk about what it is like to be an apprentice. We will also be welcoming a Quantity Surveyor from Henry Riley to speak about their apprenticeship scheme. Finally On the 6th February the NHS Roadshow bus will be parking at the College from 1pm so that students can take the opportunity to find out about careers in the NHS, the UK's biggest employer. This can remain here until 6pm if there are any parents who would also be interested in finding out information. Please contact Mrs Martin if this is the case.

Finally, on the last Friday of this half term we are holding a non-uniform day to raise money in memory of Kieran Doggett and all proceeds will be donated to a charity of the family's choice. This is on behalf of Kieran Doggett who sadly passed away in the summer of last year. A number of events will be held to commemorate his life, one of which will be the menu for the day. As a big pizza fan, we will be encouraging students to eat pizza for Kieran. A huge number of flavours will be on the menu for this day, and we asking for donations of £1.

Yours faithfully

Daniel Baxby  
Principal