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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families have enjoyed a restful half term break. We have been delighted to see our students return to school and we began this week with an assembly about the importance of standing up for what you believe in and the power of an individual to effect change. This was followed by a PSHE session for Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) focusing on Mental Health Awareness and wellbeing led by Y10E and Dr. Skordi. Many thanks to them for organising this fantastic session and adding their voices to raise awareness of this important and often underreported issue.

On Wednesday we launched our pilot programme of the iSAMS Parent Portal by inviting all our Key Stage 3 parents, those with children in Years 7, 8 or 9, to create an account on the Portal. Once we have evaluated the success of our pilot programme, we will be rolling it out more widely to our whole school community. The Portal gives access to a range of the information that relates to your children's schooling and will allow us to communicate with you more efficiently.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our first Academic Review Days of the year will take place next Thursday and Friday. These meetings will be online through Teams and links to each teacher's Team will be circulated early next week. **There will be no lessons on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November for any students in the Senior School.**

Many thanks to all our parents who have already taken the time to fill out our Parent Questionnaire. This really does allow us to view the school through your eyes and will help to guide our direction over the coming months and years. The results have already given us some very valuable feedback. The survey can be found here: <https://forms.gle/15HV3KmtrypGQKZ8>

We said goodbye to Mrs. Haroutunian at the end of the last half term. She has worked here since January 2019 and was a valued member of the Humanities department, teaching both History and EPQ. She will be much missed by both her students and her colleagues. We will be joined by Mr. Shixate on 15<sup>th</sup> November, who will be teaching History and Global Perspectives.

We are looking for a photographer and videographer to take pictures and short videos to update our marketing materials and website. Please get in touch if you would be interested in this opportunity.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend and look forward to another exciting and rewarding week in school next week.

Kind Regards,

**Dr. Beth Ashfield**

Acting Senior School Headteacher / Principal

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