

December 2023

Dear parents and carers,

**Re: End of term updates and start of Term 3**

I hope that this letter finds you well. Please find attached our first 'JOG News' of this year. It contains updates and highlights from across the school, which I hope you will take pleasure in reading.

As I say in my message in JOG News, we've packed an awful lot into the past 15 weeks. Our students have worked hard, and the atmosphere across all year groups has been one of a positive attitude focussed on learning. They are no doubt tired and need a break as much as the rest of us, so I hope they are able to find time over the holidays to do so.

As ever, staff have also worked extremely hard to ensure that every student is able to access the best care and provision possible, and I would like to formally thank my team here for their ongoing professionalism and commitment. I'm sure that you will join me in wishing them a restful break too!

The school site will be closed down completely over the Christmas Holidays, including the phone lines and email system, so please be patient if you have a query during this time. Staff return to school on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 and can pick up communications then.

Students return to school on Thursday 4th January 2024 at the usual time of 8.45am. The school day will run as normal, and we are not expecting any issues with West Berkshire run school transport for those families that use it. Please ensure that your child returns to school ready to learn and in full and correct school uniform. We will be gathering students at the start of term to ensure that this is the case.

Some other forthcoming key dates for Term 3 that you may wish to make note of are as follows:

- Monday 15th January – MHST Emotion Coaching Workshop for Parents
- Thursday 25th January – JOG's annual Prize Giving Evening
- **Monday 29th January – Additional Inset Day (please see below)**
- Tuesday 30th January – Parent Forum (further details to follow early in January)
- Thursday 8th February – Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
- Friday 9th February – end of Term 3

You will no doubt have noticed that we have added an Inset Day for Monday 29th January. This was approved by the Board of Directors for Excalibur Academies Trust at the end of last week. School staff will be working on site on the 29th January undertaking important training and developmental work for the benefit of the school community and I hope that you will be supportive of this decision.

This means that students will be asked to learn remotely on this day and work will be set via Class Charts for students to complete at home. All students should return to school on site on Tuesday 30th January for an 8.45am start as usual. I will write again in January with a reminder about the Inset day.

In the meantime, wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New year from all of us at John O'Gaunt School!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Hawthorne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R" and "H".

**Richard Hawthorne**  
**Principal**



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