

15th February 2018

## St Julian's School Half-term Update

Although it only seems like yesterday that we returned after the Christmas break, staff and students have been working exceptionally hard over the past six weeks to ensure our progress continues at St Julian's.

Thank you again for your patience last week. We are delighted that our gas supply has returned, along with our heating and hot water.

Following their visit just before Christmas, Estyn have now confirmed that our improvement plan - also known as the Post Inspection Plan (PIAP) - is suitable and will serve to help our progress. The PIAP is now available for all to see on the school website (*via About Us, School Improvement*). They have recently informed us that they are going to conduct a monitoring visit between the 5th and 7th March. I will of course update you with their report.

Improvements have taken place across the school - the standards in books are higher than they were previously and student voice recognises an increase in challenge in the classroom. Please take a moment to sit down with your son/daughter and ask them to talk you through their work.

Our aim is to equip all students with the skills to proofread and evaluate their own work in order to raise the standard of technical accuracy in written work across the school. Our #NoExcuses policy is helping us to hit home to students how important it is to correct common errors in written work and check calculations in numeracy tasks. When looking through exercise books or supporting home learning tasks, please help us in this vital drive to improve standards and ask your child to

proofread their work and show you evidence of their corrections before handing work in to teachers. .

You may have seen the National Categorisation data was released last week. Unfortunately, for the period of time we are in Special Measures we are 'tied' to the Red category. However, I can assure you that standards are moving in the right direction across the school. At this early stage in Year 11 we have more students who have achieved a C grade or higher in both Maths and English than we did in the summer of last year. Representatives from both the Local Authority and EAS have formally commented how delighted they are with the progress we are making.

There obviously remains a distance to go and it will only be through a continued triad of efforts from yourselves, our staff and students, that our school reaches its potential.

Looking ahead, the half-term up to Easter is a short but busy. one. The first week back is a week of celebration with both St David's Day and World Book Day on Thursday 1st March. We are launching a '100 Words' writing competition for all students - with prizes and the opportunity for winners to have their work in print. We also invite all students to celebrate **St David's Day on the 1st March by Wearing Red for Wales**. Students can choose to wear anything from a small red headband to the full Welsh rugby strip! We are using this event as an opportunity to raise money for the charity Dreams & Wishes (a local charity dedicated to helping seriously ill children by making their dreams and wishes come true), by asking students to bring in a donation on the day.

Please enjoy the half-term break with your child. As always, asking them to show you their plans for the week and breaking up 'holiday' activities with school work, will be another positive step as we, as a school community, strive for excellence.

Regards



Rhys Evans  
Headteacher