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Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering Achievement
Shaping **Learning**

11 May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7,

We have been so proud of the conduct of Year 7 pupils during this first round of SSAs. It has been really valuable experience for pupils to understand the rigours of an examination hall and to start practising timings and applying their learning in exam conditions. We put the additional step of assembling for line-up before entering the exam hall just to give some last-minute reminders and to ensure that high standards were absolutely in place and the pupils, as always, really impressed.

Fidget Toys

Miss Carroll has reminded all pupils that only small, discrete and classroom-suitable items are allowed for pupils who find that having something in their hands aids focus. A small number of pupils may have such an item advised in line with a diagnosed learning need. However, all pupils are reminded that larger items, items that make a noise, 'squishy' items (that too often pop making a mess and causing disruption) are not suitable for school and should be left at home. Our fantastic Ms Layden, solution focused as ever, purchased some textured pen-toppers that some pupils have reported that they find useful. As always, our ultimate goal is 100% disruption free learning.

Period 4 from Monday

We have reached the point in the year when we feel that pupils will be best to make their own way to Period 4 straight from tutor period and will trial this from Monday 11th May. Pupils will line up at the end of lunchtime for a prompt dismissal to tutor time. Tutors will then send to Period 4. All pupils are reminded that should we see a spike in minutes late to afternoon lessons, we will need to immediately reinstate whole-year line-ups, as we will not compromise on our goal of every lesson starting promptly and remaining disruption free.

Happy Birthday, Sir David

Ms Carroll took time in today's online assembly to wish a happy birthday to Sir David Attenborough. He is a great model for our pupils - not only because of his contribution to broadcasting and bringing the wonders of the natural world into our living rooms, but also because we wish all of our pupils a long and healthy life full of restless curiosity.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Kilgannon
Assistant Vice Principal

Part of the **ACET** family

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