Dear Parent and Student,

Firstly this week I want to congratulate all our young people who assisted so well on our Open Evening last night. They were exceptional and I am very proud of them. A very special word of thanks and congratulations should also go to the young people who stood alongside me in the hall and addressed all our visitors. They were so poised and eloquent and therefore huge congratulations to:

Diviya Kumar – Year 7
Rishi Sookrah – Year 7
Michaela Tobin – Head Girl – Year 11
Marcelle Casey-Blake – Head Boy – Year 11
Gurdev Tumber – Sixth Form President
Megan Young – Sixth Form Vice President
Bilal Hussain – Sixth Form Vice President

This forthcoming week, we welcome our Year 7 and their parents to their first ‘Reporting Evening’. This is an opportunity for families to receive information about how well our new Year 7 students are meeting their targets and responding to their learning challenges on transition from primary school. It also provides opportunity to share important curriculum and learning information so that the all important partnership working that we are engaged in can get off to a fabulously positive start.

With regards to ensuring a positive start, our new Sixth Formers are completing their transition programme and we look forward to their ‘Sixth Form Graduation Evening’ on Thursday 3rd October. These young men and women who have proven their aptitude and commitment to further and higher level study will formally graduate into our Sixth Form on this occasion. This is a really positive achievement and we are looking forward to celebrating this with our Sixth Form young men and women and their families.

In terms of celebrations, we are hoping to celebrate the success of our Year 10 Football Team on Monday as they have their first match in a ‘national competition’. You may remember that last year, as Year 9 young men, they were victorious in all their matches both within the borough and the Berkshire area. We are certainly hoping and anticipating that this ‘unbeaten record’ will be sustained and we wish them the very best of luck.

We have five weeks now until half-term which commences on Monday 28th October and concludes on Friday 1st November with students returning on Tuesday 5th November as we have a staff training day on Monday 4th November. Immediately after half-term we have a number of year groups undertaking examinations.

- Year 8 and 9 have exams beginning 5th November;
- Year 13 have exams the week beginning 11th November;
- Year 11 have exams the week beginning 25th November.
Revision plans need to be formulated at this stage and we ask for parents/carers to support in this with regards to time spent out of school on such important work. Homework plus revision at home needs to be given the appropriate amount of time. Next week our bulletin will be devoted to providing guidance on learning and revision strategies.

Very best wishes for a great week ahead.

Kathleen M Higgins
Executive Headteacher
Word of the Week

**transition** *(noun/verb)*

*tran-zish-uhn*

**Definition:**
- the process or period of changing from one state to another *(noun)*
- to cross over, evolve, shift *(verb)*

**Usage:**
- The company is going through a period of transition.
- Over the course of its history, Briatin has transitioned from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy.

**Synonyms**
- growth
- development
- passage
- evolution
- conversion
- progress

**Etymology**
- Prefix - From the Latin, *trans*, meaning across, beyond.
- Suffix - *-tion* alters a verb to a noun.