

Dear Parents

As I sit and write this on Thursday evening, the snow is falling and I can hear the boarders out on the terraces enjoying another fresh arrival of snow. Whilst snow brings its challenges, it also brings joy and beauty.

The snow this week has also brought a timely reminder of something seemingly small and insignificant: grit. With the paths icy underfoot, it is the grit scattered on the pathways that helps us navigate safely around the school campus. It doesn't melt the ice instantly, it doesn't remove the cold, but it gives just enough grip to take the next step. Human grit works in much the same way. Grit provides the quiet determination to keep going when a topic is challenging, when faced with a setback or simply revising for the upcoming mock exams.

Human grit has also been evident this week in more physical ways. It has been particularly impressive to see pupils out training in the snow on the cross-country course in preparation for the house competitions in the coming weeks.

I was also impressed to see plenty of boys and girls on the rifle range on Tuesday and swimmers braving the snow at 5.30am in the mornings as they get straight back into training despite the cold temperatures. And finally, when visiting lessons this week, it has been great to see pupils working hard in preparation for the mock exams next week.

Happy New Year and thank you to all parents for your perseverance this week in getting your children into school - we appreciate travel has not been easy.

With best wishes

Jon Shaw

Head.



Highlights of the week

Netball pre-season and first match

Following a successful pre-season training weekend before term started, the girls' netball team got off to a flying start with a comfortable victory against Moreton Hall.

Rugby U16 XV v Denstone College

Congratulations to the Under 16 Rugby team for reaching the fifth round of the National Schools Magazine Cup with an impressive 37-27 victory against Denstone.

Shooting

Congratulations to Annie who represented Wales in the RIAC Championships in Luxembourg over the holidays. Her next international appearance will be in February in Bulgaria when she represents Great Britain U18s and U16s.