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Dear parents

It has been a busy but enjoyable start to the new school year. We've already had some well-supported and really positive events take place: from the Year 10 and 11 Step up to Success evenings to our successful and well-attended Year 6 Open Evening last week. We've also held the Final of the West Norfolk Academies Trust Spelling Bee, where our Year 8 students, Isabel and Evie, performed brilliantly.

Upcoming dates for your diaries include the Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme launch evening on Wednesday this week; the Year 7 Settling-in and Co-curricular evening for parents on Thursday 7 October and the Smithdon Music Festival evening on Thursday 21 October.

While it has been a great start to the year, we have also begun to see an increase in the number of students suffering with sore throats, colds and stomach bugs - far more than we have seen in the past 18 months, when additional Covid measures were in place. While this is also reflected in society as a whole, we want to ensure that we protect our students and staff from the spread of these bugs as much as possible.

As a result, from today, we are reintroducing the additional hygiene measures of students cleaning the desks with antibacterial spray at the end of every lesson and sanitising their hands on exiting classrooms (in addition to currently sanitising on entry). We will also be advising the wearing of face masks/coverings in communal areas. This will not be compulsory in any way - unless advice from Public Health England changes - and is simply being encouraged as an additional measure of precaution against the common airborne germs.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support, and we look forward to seeing you at one of the events in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

*A. Gibbins*

**Mrs A Gibbins**  
**Head of School**

