

24 November 2023

Dear parents and carers

As we approach December and start to plan for our Christmas festivities, it feels like a good time to share some of our school news with you.

- Congratulations to 11s
- Clubs & Enrichment Aims
- Temporary Head of Year Changes
- Prizes Needed for the Christmas Raffle
- Can you Contribute to the School Fund?
- My thanks to you

Firstly, I would like to congratulate our 11s for the mature and focused way they have approached their mock GCSE exams over the past two weeks. It is such an important chance for students to build their familiarity with the whole exam system, as well as gauging where they have gaps in their knowledge and what it takes to prepare for an exam.

We are very enthusiastic about providing enrichment opportunities for our students to develop their wider skills and talents, which will help to make them into the well-rounded individuals we all want them to grow to be. Our own committed and dedicated staff offer a range of Clubs after school and we also benefit from some external providers from the local community, currently cheerleading, gymnastics, basketball, football and judo. The [Clubs Timetable](#) is on our website, and we up-date this every term. **We'd love every student to try out a club next term**, and will be hosting a Clubs Festival at right after Christmas for everyone to get involved in.

We've made some temporary changes to the leadership of Year 8 and Year 9: Mrs Davis is stepping in as Head of Year 8 due to Miss Adam's illness. Mrs Lockhart, Joint Head of Year 9, has recently undergone bowel surgery following a cancer diagnosis. We are really pleased that she is on the road to recovery but it is likely she will need further treatment and she is building her strength up in preparation for this. Mrs Oakey is continuing to lead as Joint Head of Year 9 and has Mr Martin's support on Thursdays. It was lovely to have Mrs Lockhart visit this week and see the students welcome her with all their news; we send her our love and best wishes.



We are holding our traditional Christmas Raffle at the end of term to raise funds for fabulous things that benefit our students and enhance school life. Please send donations for prizes into school with students – Christmas treats, toiletries, gifts, maybe your workplace can offer something, vouchers are always popular too! Please contact Mrs Gray kgray@carringtonschool.org with any queries, and leave donations of alcohol with our Reception team. Many thanks!

Each year we ask our families to make a donation to the School Fund on ParentPay. The suggested amount is £50 per family though you can alter this and give as much or as little as you are able to. Every penny goes towards improving our students' experiences here, which is becoming increasingly important as government budgets continue to shrink in real terms year on year. My sincere thanks to you if you are able to contribute to this.

Finally, can I say a huge thank you to you as parents and carers for all of your feedback and continued support. Raising teenagers and young people brings great joy but also brings its own challenges as they become more and more independent, tell us less and less, and want to explore wider. Working together as a community helps lay down boundaries and expectations, maintaining a sense of order for our young people when they need it most. As we know “it takes a village to raise a child”... I hope that together we can continue to be that village for your child.

My very best wishes,

Kerry Oakley
Headteacher

