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Re: AGi/LT

10 February 2023

Dear parents

How quickly this half term has flown by - it doesn't seem five minutes since we returned from the Christmas holidays - and yet so many events have taken place. Please see the February 2023 edition of The Smithdonian Magazine for a small flavour of these.

As we come to the half term holiday, it is time for my usual reminder about ensuring your child's uniform is ready for after the break - in particular ensuring any broken or outgrown shoes are replaced to address the recent increase in trainers, which will be challenged when we return. Likewise, please ensure that any false nails and eyelashes are removed ready for our return to school on Monday 20 February.

Your child may have told you that we have a new morning routine launching after half term - where each day will begin with a Spotlight on Smithdon. Each morning, after the 8.25am warning bell, all students will congregate on the central playground, lining up in tutor groups. Tutors will use this time to check students' uniforms, before I greet the whole school and important messages are shared with all the students. Following Spotlight, students will go to assembly or their form rooms for their PSHE ASPIRE lessons. Should the weather be particularly poor, then Spotlight will not happen and students will be notified to go straight to tutor rooms.

Finally, thank you for all the feedback we have received regarding the first week of our return to a single break and lunch. Lunches have gone well for the vast majority of students, who are happier to be at lunch as a whole community, and this has also enabled many of our staff to offer a huge range of lunch time clubs to students beginning after half-term (see attached timetable). Having reopened the Snack Shack hatch and purchased new tables for the Hall, seating an additional 70+ students, lunch is running far more smoothly than in pre-Covid times. With Break times being more popular for food, we have continued to encounter some issues, despite tweaks during the week including a wider spread of students between the hatches and an increase in specific food orders. We will continue to iron out these issues next half term until we have the best set-up possible.

I hope our students have a lovely half term holiday and I look forward to seeing them refreshed from the break in a week's time.

Yours sincerely

*A. Gibbins*

**Mrs A Gibbins**  
**Headteacher**

