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29 March 2023

Dear parents

With the clocks having gone forward and the days of longer daylight approaching, I write to you to celebrate the many successful events that have taken place this term.

Year 11s completed a positive set of final PPE exams before their real exams begin. Some students have already completed their GCSE Drama and Food exams, and others have received encouraging results from their January exams in iMedia and Health & Social Care.

Year 9 and 10 STEMM Club students have enjoyed visiting our feeder primary schools during British Science Week to deliver experiments and encourage younger pupils to take an interest in the wonders of Science.

We also enjoyed our second Smithdon Literary Festival, which was an outstanding success with students enjoying Harry Potter's Diagon Alley in the Library, visits from a poet, an author and a journalist and many other exciting activities, including a literary-themed dress up day for the National Literacy Trust and our own Smithdon Library, raising £208.

In the last two weeks we also enjoyed a fun day for Comic Relief and saw lots of students and staff wearing red. While we failed to beat our Children in Need figure from November, we still raised a staggering £579.34 - and I thank all our parents who helped the students to get involved and donate in these difficult financial times.

After Easter we will be introducing a new West Norfolk Academies Trust Menu for breaks and lunches - attached for your information. There are a few changes to options available but you will notice that we have had to increase a number of our prices to reflect the increase in the cost of ingredients. We have endeavoured to keep these increases to a minimum by creating a cross-Trust menu to reduce costs through multi-school purchases but have been unable to prevent them altogether.

As part of this change, students will no longer be able to go into the red on their accounts. If their account is overdrawn they will be refused food. Should you wish to avoid them going into the red, there is the ability to set alerts on ParentPay for when the balance drops to a chosen amount. Under the 'communication' section there are various alert options, including the Balance Alerts:

**Balance alerts**

| Payment item                           | Child  | Threshold       | Email                                     | Text                          |
|--|--------|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Lunch Payment for Smithdon High School | Amanda | Threshold £2.00 | Email <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Text <input type="checkbox"/> |



I hope that everyone has a well-deserved break over the Easter holidays and wish Year 11 good luck with their revision in preparation for their final examinations. All students return to school on Monday 17 April.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

*A. Gibbins.*

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