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Ref: AGi/LT

9 May 2025

Dear parents

Where has the sun gone? After the beautiful weather of last weekend, it has been so cold. Here's hoping that the return of the warmth this weekend is now here to stay.

After a jam-packed Spring term, we have a very short turnaround to half term with assessments for Yr7 completed, Yr8 about to begin and GCSEs starting today. We've also squeezed in a VE Day Celebration, a cross-Trust Faraday competition at Springwood - where Smithdon emerged victorious with a plaque for the winning team! We have our in-house chess tournament to come and **Yr10 parents' evening on 22** May.

Half term will be here in no time, with some lucky students off to Lake Garda for the holiday. Then we welcome the long Summer term 2, filled with lots of activities and excitement - see below for a flavour of what will be going on.

Attendance continues to be an area of focus and you may have noticed we are making more contact with you to offer support to help your children attend. This will be a key focus for Smithdon next year, as our students' attendance is significantly below the national average and we want to help more children attend more regularly and avoid missing out on opportunities available to them both now and in their futures. We also want to review how we are communicating with you.

As such, we have a new parental survey (different to those completed on parents' evenings or sent out in the past) that I ask you to complete. No matter how many children you have at Smithdon, you only need to complete one survey. Providing your name is optional but if you choose to give your name, we may be able to respond to any specific concerns you raise directly with you.

The link to complete the survey is

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSdulqlgk8qPVX2q4Jk71ckwyui038TRDT3ixnKyeEXlpS AYew/viewform?usp=sharing

It will close on Friday 16 May 2025. Thank you in advance for sharing your views with us.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Keep well.

Yours sincerely

A Gibbins.

Mrs A Gibbins Headteacher











## A selection of Summer Term 2 events

- Yr8 Trust DT Casting competition at Smithdon
- Bronze & Silver DofE expeditions
- Thursday 19 June, Yr7 parents' evening
- Friday 20 and Sunday 22 June Art Gallery at the Town Hall
- Yr10 College and Springwood Sixth Form Taster Days
- Yr7 Lorry demonstration
- UEA Bringing Scientists to You event at Marshland High School
- Trust Chess Tournament at Marshland High School
- Norfolk Show Rewards trips
- Yr11 Prom
- Trust Yr7 MFL Spelling Bee at Marshland High School
- Yr10 Sports Leaders' Cluster PE Festival
- Thursday 3 July, Yr8 Parents' Evening
- Yr9 Cambridge Writers University trip
- Wednesday 9 July, Smithdon Summer Concert
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe summer theatre trip
- Friday 11 July, Yr5 Experience Day
- Yr10 Work Experience week
- Trust Community Music week at Springwood High School
- Tuesday 15 July, Yr6 Transition Day
- Yr7 PGL trip
- Yr8 & Yr9 Pleasurewood Hills trips
- Smithdon Sports Day
- Smithdon Fun Day