

Monday 27 February



It hardly seems possible that we enter March and the start of Lent this week. This term is often condensed and as the summer examinations draw closer a greater sense of urgency for our older students. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at our Options Evening last week. This stage in the educational journey of Year 9 is an important one, where the make choices that direct their future learning. The Options Evening was just one part of our support for Year 9 students in making these choices. All Year 9 students will also have a one-to-one meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership team to discuss their choices and help guide their continued breadth of learning. To see copies of the slides from Wednesday night with some key dates and information please **click here**.

This week we say bon voyage to our Year 9 students who embark on the second leg of their French Exchange. This rich linguistic and cultural experience will support their language development and provides an opportunity for emersion in a foreign country. From the hugs and tears as the exchange students departed from Debenham back in October we know that they will be warmly received.

As you know, we continually encourage students to read, knowing the importance of this for literacy development and emotional well-being, but in equal measure as a pleasurable activity. This week is World Book Day and in celebration every student will receive a £1 book token donated by publishers, booksellers and the National Book Token scheme. Pupils can visit participating bookstores throughout March and swap the token for one of the specially produced £1 World Book Day Books or use the token to receive £1 off a book priced at £2.99 or more. For a list of recently released books with reviews and recommendations go to [www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk).

Along with this, we are encouraging students and staff to raise money on 2<sup>nd</sup> March via a fancy dress / non-uniform day. Students and staff are invited to pay £1 to come dressed as a character from a book or to wear civvies. The money raised will be split between purchases and improvements for the Learning Resource Centre and Book Aid International, a charity that seeks to ensure all communities have access to books and library resources. You can find out more about this charity at <http://www.bookaid.org/>.

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