

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the half term break, I wanted to write to tell you how impressed I have been with our students, who have dealt with all the usual challenges that a new school year brings, along with the extra challenges brought about by the Covid restrictions. The students have been very respectful of the rules and have quickly adapted to a new way of socialising in between lessons. Their level of maturity in lessons is clear to see, both behaviourally and through their excellent attitude to learning.

This has not been easy, when in a lot of cases, you have had no real opportunity to see the school, meet the tutor, talk to staff and see our students, as you would normally have done. It has not gone unnoticed that many parents are providing extra time to support their child's learning. It is very much appreciated, and we have no doubt our students will thrive with your continued support at home. If any parents need further advice as to how they can support their child at home, please don't hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year. We will keep you informed of parents' evening dates and how they will operate. Although a phone appointment can never fully replicate school-based parents' evenings, we hope you will still feel that this gives you a valuable insight into your child's learning.

As you are aware, we have had to ask some students from a range of year groups to isolate and learn remotely during this time. All students are now used to working with Google Classroom, and this will continue to be the platform to engage in remote learning, whether that be in live lessons, recorded lessons and presentations, or to download resources provided by the teacher. If at some point your child is required to isolate, be assured that we will continue to educate them with high quality provision.

Although we are living through a prolonged period of uncertainty, our students continue to be a source of inspiration to us all. I am confident that with their hard work, your support at home and our staffs excellent teaching and pastoral care, we will rise to whatever challenges are put before us.

**Important reminders for parents:**

- The staggered exit of the building at 2:40pm will continue for the next half term. Due to year groups being dismissed at different intervals, please be aware that it may be as late as 2:50 by the time your child is dismissed. It is therefore important that if you have arranged transport home for your child, the driver is aware of this delay.
- If possible and safe to do so, encourage your child to walk or cycle to school.
- Your child must wear a face mask for any journey where they are with students outside of their immediate household and a plastic bag to store the mask when they arrive in school.
- Every student must attend school with a face mask they can wear in the school building.

- Please make sure that your child arrives at school for an 8:20am entrance to the building.
- Students will not be brought inside the building unless there is particularly bad weather; it is important your child has a **warm, waterproof coat with them at all times**. Students will also need a good-sized school bag.
- Please make sure that your child is equipped with their iPad and a full set of essential stationery/equipment every day.
- Discuss the [catch it, kill it, bin it](#) approach and the [six steps to hand-washing](#) stages with your child.
- Notify school immediately if either your child or someone in your household is displaying symptoms of Covid-19. Follow the PHE "Stay at Home" [guidance](#) and arrange to have a test.
- If your child has any underlying health conditions, make sure you discuss your child's return to school with your doctor and advise the school of any information you feel we need to be aware of. Further support and guidance can be found [here](#). As the town has now been moved to tier 3, if your child has received a letter stating they are **clinically extremely vulnerable**, then you must notify school immediately so we can arrange remote learning whilst they shield.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my most sincere thank you to all students, parents and staff who have supported the school. I wish you and your family well for the holidays and I hope you all have time to recharge your batteries after a long half term.

Yours sincerely



Mark Cocker