

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Newsletter – Week 9



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a peaceful half term and managed some time together.

As we are now in day two of the national lockdown, I wanted to highlight the school specific guidance published two days ago and provide you with an overview of the key messages from that. You can find all of the 'Education and Childcare Settings' guidance by [clicking here](#) or skip straight to the section on schools by [clicking here](#). I know that many of you have children in different phases of education or in childcare and you may find this of use.

I know schools have worked through the guidance provided a couple of months ago in different ways, but the strict measures that we have had in place – ensuring all year groups are separate, in 'bubbles' and wearing face coverings at all times when inside the building, are suggested now as common practice. Your support in this has been fantastic so please keep sending your son/daughter into school with an appropriate face covering. I will continue to update you all, as and when guidance changes, especially as the nation is in lockdown but schools will be carrying on. Of course, we do not know what is around the corner, but being in school, learning and making progress is the best place for our young people.

As I mentioned previously, exams this year will start slightly later than usual to give our students a 'little' extra time to catch up on any lost face to face learning. However, what we are ensuring is that assessment and progress are being tracked in a huge amount of detail in the event that this should change due to the closure of schools. We are approaching the Year 11 mock exams in a few weeks as 'the real thing' so that we have lots of evidence to substantiate any awarded grades. There is a huge Year 11 intervention programme that is in place and it would be great to see more of our Year 11 taking up the offer to ensure they get the best grade possible. It may only be three weeks to the mock exams, but it is only twenty-four school weeks until the actual exam season is upon us.

I have taken the decision to postpone our annual Learning Review Day this year which was scheduled for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November. This is one of my favourite days of the school year as we get to see so many parents in school discussing what is important – our students! As this cannot take place as we want, I have decided that this day will be a normal school day with normal lessons for all students. Enough lesson time has been missed and I would rather look to a later date in the academic year when we can welcome many of you in to talk to our staff and give that time back to our teachers to work with your son/daughter.



POWERED BY



*Principal: Russell Denial*



On a final note, I just wanted to mention our amended school day. The school day is working extremely well with students embedded into routines and knowing where to go, where to access food and staying in their 'bubble' areas. At this point in time, we are going to continue with the current curriculum and school day for the foreseeable future. Our Key Stage 3 students have access to the full range of subjects and our examination years have appropriate allocated taught time. None of our students are losing out on learning opportunities. The DfE originally said that schools should aim to deliver the full curriculum by the summer term as long as it was safe. This is something that we have been doing since the new term began.

It has certainly been a very challenging time for all of us and especially now in lockdown 2. Please do adhere to the 'rules' as Mr Johnson would say and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr R Denial**  
Principal

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