

16th October 2020

Newsletter – Week 7

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all well and have had a good week. The first half term in the Autumn is our longest half term of the year with still one more week to go. It is strange to think that in every other half term coming up, we will be finished for a break or already finished!

There has been some debate in the news this week about a 'circuit break' and having schools take a two week break across the nation with a longer half term. As always, we will continue to work to our published calendar unless advised otherwise, and in particular, I cannot wait to welcome back our small cohort of Year 9 students who have been self-isolating for the last two weeks. I have been incredibly impressed with how they have maintained their school work and I have received such positive comments from our staff. Next week is a shorter week for students who all finish at the end of the day on Thursday to allow for a staff training day on Friday.

The Department for Education and Mr Williamson announced this week that exams will go ahead next summer 'underpinned by contingencies for all possible scenarios'. The reality of this is that the majority of exams for A' level and GCSE will be held 3 weeks later than normal to give students more time to prepare. That start date is 7th June and they will end on 2nd July with one Maths and English GCSE paper taking place *before* half term. So the reality is – not really 3 extra weeks to prepare. We are working hard with our students to ensure that they will all be ready, so please do not worry! The results dates have also been amended and published. A' Level results day is Tuesday 24th August and GCSE results day is Friday 27th August. I know holiday planning is somewhat impossible at this moment in time, but please do avoid all of the dates I have included in this letter. In regards to any contingency plans or alternative arrangements, I am led to believe that further information will be published later in the Autumn term. So in short, we await to hear what the plan B actually is.

On Wednesday and Thursday this week we had our Open Evening and Open Morning. As I have mentioned previously, welcoming so many people to our school over the two days is one of my favourite occasions of the year. Although it has not been possible to open our door to everyone, we carried on as we normally do! Our Open Evening on Wednesday was a live presentation talking about our school with some clips from our Year 7 students as well as Dan and Beth, our Head Boy and Head Girl. We also decided that the best way to have an Open Morning was to film live in school as I gave a tour around some of our facilities and classrooms to see our students at work.



POWERED BY



Principal: Russell Denial

It is important to me that parents do get to see the school in action on a normal day. I also talk about some of the extensive measures we have put in place to maintain year group bubbles and social distancing. I have had really lovely feedback from so many people already and I thank you for taking the time to let us know your thoughts. The links to both are on our website but I have included them here;

Open Evening, Wednesday 14th October <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVnhqLIjyA>

Open Morning, Thursday 15th October <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-lkJA10Rro>

It is also important to note that under our 'SEND' tab on the website, there is a video and further information about our fantastic Learning Support Department.

The weather continues to change and catch us all out so please do ensure that your son/daughter has appropriate winter clothing and next week's weather looks to be interesting to say the least.

I hope you all have a good weekend and as we say up North, 'look after you and yours'.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Denial
Principal

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