

7th May 2021

Newsletter – week 30



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all had a good bank holiday weekend. The four day school week has certainly flown by!

I want to start with a thank you to our Year 9 parents for the positive feedback and support following yesterday's Year 9 parents' evening. Although we have implemented changes for forthcoming years and the option process, our Year 9 students are concluding their first year of GCSE options. We all know what a challenge the past fourteen months has been for everyone, but working on new courses and specialising on option choices has given our students even more to think about. I have to say that our staff are incredibly impressed with how the significant majority have adapted to these challenges and the great progress that has been made. The positive thing is that there is still another two years of work ahead and we can hope that these two years will now be without further interruption.

We are also now at the mid-point of our internal progress and assessment work with our Year 11 and 13. Some of the days have been really busy with lots of assessments taking place, but we are now entering into the final part of this. In 'usual' years, the full written exam season would be about to start in the main hall and gym and it still feels strange to think that this hasn't happened in schools across the country for two years! However, I do know that there will be a huge sigh of relief when we hit the end of this half term and all work will have been completed. We will be communicating with our Year 11 parents next week in what we will be providing for our students in the three weeks after half term until statutory leaving date on June 25th.

We all wait with eager anticipation on the Government's next announcement regarding May 17th and the next stages of the 'road map'. We hope that a little more normality can resume if it is safe to do so. We will also get clarification of the wearing of face coverings in lessons. As you know this was extended from the initial period up until the Easter holidays and students are still required to wear them as per the guidance. Can I please ask that students do have a face covering for school for next week as there has been some students that have arrived without them. The other aspect is the administering of the LFD tests. All students were given further home testing kits to cover this period and we wait to see if we will be given more. Staff, as well as students, have been testing twice weekly to ensure that we are all as safe as possible.



Principal: Russell Denial

It has been really good to see students getting involved with our extra-curricular programme this week and enjoying school beyond the classroom once again. We remain hopeful that it will not be long before we can dilute the bubble system a little so that students can enjoy the full range of opportunities at our school.

As always, I have done my usual weather check for the weekend and it seems that we may need some waterproof clothing tomorrow. I am sure that the lovely weather is on its way – at some point. Whatever your plans are for the weekend, I hope it is a good one.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Denial
Principal

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