

Friday 27th November 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back Year 10 and 11 on Monday 30th November. It was excellent to have the Sixth Form back with us earlier this week. Whilst we have made significant progress with online learning using Google classroom, we all agree it is much better learning-wise, when the teacher and student are in the actual classroom!

We have certainly been hit by the virus - in the last 14 days we have had 35 positive student cases and the older year groups have been more adversely affected. A very small number of staff have tested positive. When we are notified of a positive case we do our own track and trace procedure so we can ensure close contacts of a confirmed case are notified. In some year groups we have taken the decision to isolate all students to try and minimise transmission.

We hope that the rest of the term will be relatively normal and we will not have to collapse year bubbles or send whole year groups home. However we all recognise that the next few months will remain challenging and that we must continue to observe the Tier restrictions put in place by the government. RBKC have also asked us [to share this letter with you](#). We are finding that a very small number of students are being sent in when a member of their household has displayed symptoms or has tested positive; this then compromises our COVID-19 measures at the Academy.

Term and holiday dates for 2021/22

Please find the [dates for next academic year](#). Term dates are also available under the Calendar section of the website. A gentle reminder that the Academy cannot authorise holidays taken in term time.

Contact details

A reminder that if your email address or mobile telephone number has changed please let us know (by emailing student services on student.services@chelsea-academy.org) or by amending your details directly through the [Edulink app](#). As you are aware we are currently having to make some fairly quick decisions about sending students home if they are identified as a close contact of a positive case, or in the event of having to keep an entire year group at home. We have found that we hold some incorrect contact emails and mobile numbers for you. This then causes understandable anxiety if you feel you have not received timely communication from us.

Feedback on Remote Learning and Y9 Parent Consultation Evening

We have had some really helpful feedback on Remote Learning over the last few weeks. Please do let us know if you have any further feedback - positive and negative - [using this Google form](#). The Year 9 PCE was very well attended and we would like to consider at least one PCE a year operating remotely. Again do let us know if this is something that you would welcome.

Ofsted

You may recall we had an interim Ofsted visit the week before half term on 19th October. These visits are being conducted to find out how schools are coping and managing at this time. The visit does not

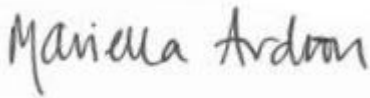
result in a grading and is not designated as an inspection. However do please [find the letter here](#) if you haven't already read it. The format of these letters is to comment on current curriculum provision, within the constraints we have due to COVID-19, as well as behavior and the attendance of students. It was good to know we are doing all we could to try and ensure consistency of provision for all students and to consider how we can offer more curriculum opportunities in the New Year.

School Street

As you know this initiative has allowed for considerable improvement in the safety of our academy community. We can be more reassured about the safety of students as they arrive and leave the academy, because most vehicles are prevented from coming down Burnaby Street. If RBKC is to make this initiative permanent they will need positive comments from our community - especially parents and carers. If you have a few minutes please could you email trafficorders@rbkc.gov.uk to outline how you believe School Street has improved the safety of students at the Academy.

We are busy planning for some end of term Christmas celebrations for students. It would not be right to end the year without these. As we head towards the first Sunday of Advent we are reminded that even with an abnormal Christmas coming up, what has not changed is the story and the meaning of Jesus' birth. In the CoE's advent resource - Comfort and Joy - the Archbishops of York and Canterbury make the point that; 'God is with us in the mess as in the good, in the disappointment and the difficulty, in sorrow and in celebration.'

Wishing you a lovely weekend.



Mariella Ardron
Principal