

Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a beautiful sunny start we have had to the summer term. Students have settled right back into learning once again. It's also been particularly good to see students engaging in all the extra curricular provision on offer at the end of the day. The first three days of this week alone saw tennis, DebateMate and an Unconscious Bias session. Assistant Principal, Mr. Whitley also met with a number of students for a Student Voice session on Wednesday, where a range of issues and topics were discussed. It is so important that the views of our students are heard and where possible and appropriate, acted on. On Monday all students in Years 7-11 attended a welcome back assembly led by either myself or Mrs. Whittle. Mrs. Holgate led a more bespoke assembly for the Sixth Form which had a very important focus on the issues around the harassment and abuse of women and societal attitudes towards such issues. The Leadership Team are currently reviewing the Academy's Safeguarding policy and practices to ensure we are as proactive and responsive as we need to be. We are looking at how we continue to best educate all our community in these matters.

Testing reminder

Thank you for your continued support for home lateral flow testing. It continues to identify cases where the student had no symptoms whatsoever, and is therefore helping to keep our community as covid-free as possible. If your child is testing at home, please could you ensure you are submitting their results on testregister.co.uk first, before the NHS website. This allows us to monitor testing rates, as the NHS website does not share information with us (unless in the case of a positive test). The next batch of test kits will be available for students at the end of next week.

Deferred INSET from January - moving to 7th June

The Leadership Team have carefully considered the volume of work that is needed to assess, moderate and document the Year 11 and Year 13 grades, in the absence of examinations this summer. There are many hours of work involved. Therefore despite trying to avoid any further missed teaching time, I am letting you know that I have rescheduled the missed January INSET to 7th June. This is the Monday immediately after half term. I am sorry for the short notice but hopefully it allows sufficient time for you to make any necessary arrangements. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Year 8 Options Process

If you are the parent or carer of a Year 8 student, please ensure you are involved in the process as they pick their GCSE subjects. You will have been asked to pick an appointment slot with a member of the Extended Leadership Team to discuss your child's choices - this is via the system we use for online parents evenings and LCCD. You will also need to complete the form ([on the Y8 Virtual Options page](#)) with your child to tell us their first and second choices. The deadline for all this is Friday 30th April 2021. It's a big decision for Year 8 students, so please make sure you are aware of the choices and take this opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Chaplain's message

Many of you will know our wonderful Chaplain, Mr. Richards. He will be sharing a short reflection with us in these letters. Do get in contact through the Chaplaincy page on our website if you want to speak to Mr. Richards.

I hope you all had a brilliant Easter break and were able to rest and relax. Our theme of this week is 'Passion' and our verse of the week is from 2 Thessalonians 3:13: 'And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.' Sometimes we may feel as if we have lost our passion and other times we can feel incredibly passionate.

This week is a chance to reflect and think about where our passion comes from and how to rediscover it if needed.

This verse also reminds us of the importance of doing good. Whatever your circumstances are today, I hope that you can find your passion and use it for the good of others. May God's peace be with you this week.

Wishing you and your family a restful weekend.



Mariella Ardron
Principal