30 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well at this time and looking forward to life returning to normality in the near future. As you know, we continue to operate in zones here in school and unfortunately we have had one positive case identified resulting in some children having to be sent home. This is the first time, in a long time, that we have had any positive cases and it serves as a reminder that we must all do everything we can to mitigate against the resurfacing of the virus. In school, this includes the key message of hands, face, space. I would be grateful if you could continue to re-inforce this as well as the importance of wearing masks when indoors at school at all times. I have to say that the students have been very good at following these regulations and I know we can all count on their on-going co-operation as we continue to work our way out of this pandemic. Could I also remind you that should your child develop a high temperature, a persistent cough or a loss of taste or smell you should keep them off school and book a PCR test as soon as possible. I will continue to send self-testing kits for as long as we have them in stock, there will be more coming home this week with your child. Again, please encourage them to do these tests twice per week as per the government guidance. The government are also strongly encouraging the reporting of these results. Further information on this can be found at this [LINK](https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/04/23/heres-why-reporting-your-test-result-is-as-important-as-taking-a-test/?utm_source=29%20April%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19). You will appreciate that sending children home who are identified as close contacts is very disruptive to their education so everything that we can all do to help keep it out of school is to everyone’s benefit.

Later in the year, I hope that we can fully re-open the school and all its relevant facilities. For now, the students should continue to wear their PE Uniform on the days they have PE only. This of course should be the correct Range High PE uniform. I would ask for your help in ensuring this is the proper kit and is only worn on the days when your child has PE. Their timetable is available to view on ClassCharts should you be unsure. I am also hearing increasing reports of students not having the correct equipment, books, pens, pencils etc… This is an expectation as part of our Range Ready ethos, again your support is much appreciated by ensuring that your child comes to school fully equipped and ready for a full day’s learning. As parents will start to turn their attention to the new school year, you can find our full equipment and uniform policy on the website. Lockdown and school closure periods have meant that our standards are perhaps not as strictly adhered to as they have been previously. It is of great importance that we get all of these basic elements correct to ensure that our school is as smooth and efficient in its education delivery as possible. Again, your support with all of this is valued greatly.

The new Children’s Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ask – the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children’s concerns and aspirations about the future, so that the Government can put children at the heart of our country’s recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. I would strongly encourage all students to complete this [survey](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/) to support this important development and we will be sharing information about The Big Ask with students during tutor periods. The Government is also inviting parents, care leavers and those working with children to complete the [adult survey](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/adults/) to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back. The results from this survey will help the Children’s Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

As many of you may also be aware, the submission of grades this year for our Y11 and Y13 students is being undertaken by staff here at school. This is a delicate and sensitive process as it is in all schools. It is vital that we follow a very clear set of DfE guidance and instructions which seem to change on a regular basis. A very important part of this process is internal standardisation where colleagues have an opportunity to ensure that the quality and stringency of marking is consistent. We have created as much time as possible to do this during normal school hours and to further facilitate this, we will be closing the school earlier for the students on the last day of this half term. School will finish on Friday 28th May at 12.30pm. Please get in touch with your child’s Head of Year if this is problematic as I appreciate this is a slight change to our calendar as published. School will re-open as normal on the 7th June following the May half-term break.

Apologies for the amount of content but I felt these were important messages to share with you at this point in the term. Your on-going support with all of this is very much appreciated and I hope you all enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend.

With best wishes,



Mr McGarry

Headteacher