



19th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our weekly update. This has been a milestone week for us, as we have welcomed year 10 and 12 students back into school at the start of our wider opening programme. It has been wonderful to see them and they have followed our requirements impeccably. We would love to have been able to welcome students in other year groups as well, who are equally important to us, but have not been allowed to do this under current guidelines. I know this is difficult for students and families in the other year groups; nevertheless, we are all hoping this is the start of a journey to normality over the next few months, as far as school is concerned, and I return to this later in the letter. Thank you once again for your patience and support as this frustrating period continues. We continue, though, to be very proud of our students and the great work that we have been seeing from so many of them over this extended closure.

Collective Worship:

I have **attached** this week's Collective Worship slides, which have also been posted for students on Class Charts. Please encourage your child to spend a few minutes watching these – time spent in quiet reflection is greatly beneficial for us all.

Standing Up to Racism Reading List:

Also **attached** is a useful reading list for key stage 3 students about standing up to racism. This has been posted for them on Class Charts by Miss Battensby but we thought it would be useful for you to see.

Year 10 and 12 programme:

As we move into week 2 of the programme next week, here are a few reminders:

- For year 12 students, subject teachers will be arranging 1:1 Microsoft Teams meetings if that has not already happened this week. This is in preparation for the MS Teams classes that will be taking place from the following week.
- Year 10 students should attend school again on their allocated House day:
 - Monday: Ashley ○ Tuesday: Budbury ○
 - Wednesday: Conigre ○
 - Thursday: Huntingdon ○
 - Friday: Westfield

These will be the allocated days for the rest of this term's programme, which ends on Friday 17th July.

- The timings of the year 10 sessions will be the same as for this week – they should arrive by 9.30am in Trinity Hall and the morning will end by 12.30pm. As indicated in the programme outline I sent a few weeks ago, they will receive a briefing about English, Maths and Science and will then have 1:1 academic interviews with teachers of those subjects face to face. This will assist with planning for



- the programme of lessons which will follow in phase 2 of the programme. Students will be given their list of appointment times when they arrive each day. If a student's interviews finishes earlier than that they should leave site, unless awaiting a school bus (see below).
- Since the Trinity Hall sessions will only last for about 15 minutes this time, students should bring in their own full water bottle as we will not be able to provide a drink and snack this time.
- Advance notice for week commencing 29th June: the year 10 days and timings will be from 9.30am but finishing earlier at 11.30am. As we move into phase 2, from 6th and 13th July, the finish time will be slightly later at 1pm, to enable 4 lessons to take place. The exception in w/c 13th July is for students who follow the Study Plus / Lackham option, who will finish at 12.20pm. I will include all this again when I next write.

Planning for September:

We have been hard at work planning scenarios for September without any clarity in terms of national guidance. Given the progress of lockdown easing, we are currently assuming that we will be able to have ALL year groups back in school in September, although not all at the same time. Regularity will be a key principle, so we are aiming to have every student in school a substantial amount of time. We will, of course, let you have more details as we continue to work on the detail over the next few weeks.

In the unfortunate event of any "second spike" or resumption of full lockdown, we will, of course, have to adapt accordingly.

Teacher contact for key stage 3 students:

As I indicated last week, students in years 7, 8 and 9 are now able to email their teachers directly with any queries about the set work; teachers will email back with a time to contact them via audio on Microsoft Teams. General concerns or questions should still be directed to the Head of House or Assistant Head of House, as always. Each week we are exploring how we can provide greater contact and support and we will let you know as things develop this term.

Year 11 Ball cancellation: an apology

It has come to our attention that the letter about this may not have arrived electronically back in May. We are extremely sorry for the oversight, especially in the circumstances this year. A new letter will be sent out shortly for all year students and their parents / carers. You do matter a great deal to us and we haven't forgotten you, so we are particularly upset that this has happened.

Induction for new year 7 and 12 students:

Staff are hard at work preparing induction materials for our year 6 and 11 students, who will be our new year 7 and 12 students in September. We would desperately like to have held our usual on-site programmes but this has not been possible owing to current restrictions. Please look out for the materials as they are sent out.

Mr Blowers will be writing within the next week to all **Year 11s** who have applied to 6th Form, with the next phase of work called "Summer Work" – this is just being finalised with Heads of Department/Subject. This work is an important step in preparing for A levels in September. In this letter you will also find a link to a "Loom" presentation that explains everything Parents/Carers and Students need to know about 6th Form,



as sadly we will not be able to have our standard Induction Day & Evening this year. Thanks for all your support with this and if you have any specific 6th Form questions, please do get in touch with a member of the 6th Form Team.

Hub – summer offer for families: we have been asked to share this information on behalf of Bradford on Avon Hub about their summer holiday service.

The COVID 19 outbreak has brought about an increased need. Children are staying at home and some parents either earn less or receive no income which means that extra help may be needed particularly during the summer holiday period.

We would like to invite you to come along to The Hub on Monday afternoons between 1.30 – 3.00pm to choose 10 different items from our stores to help extend your income.

The food boxes we usually send out are based on what we have and what we think you may want; but this offers you the chance to choose items you and children may prefer.

No need to call ahead, just pop in and take a bag away.

We aim to trial this scheme from Monday 20th July for 6 weeks to begin with. If successful, we aim to develop something similar on a more long term basis.

Summer provision for key worker and vulnerable students:

It will not be possible to continue this provision on site over the summer holidays. However the local authority is exploring the levels of need and making plans accordingly.

Student Wellbeing

We recognise the ongoing challenges to our students' emotional wellbeing and mental health as a result of Covid-19 and school closure. Please continue to check the updated resources on the website that might be of use. If students are struggling or have safeguarding concerns please also continue to encourage them to contact their tutor or their House team via their email address.

This week, the Duchess of Cambridge led an online assembly on 'mental wellbeing among children' assembly for the Oak National Academy. The theme of the Duchess' assembly is 'spread a little kindness' and is based on a lesson plan which is available on the Mentally Healthy Schools platform. This platform was developed in collaboration with children's mental health charity Place2Be and encourages children to explore ways in which they can show kindness and recognise the benefits of kindness to others.

The Mentally Healthy Schools platform can be accessed here:

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/>

A recording of the assembly will be available to view on the Oak National Academy website following the event here: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/assemblies/>

Latest government advice on handwashing:

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthybody/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/> **Active Lives survey:**



We have been asked by Sport England to invite our students in years 7-9 to complete a national Active Lives survey. This is for your information – the link has been sent to students on Class Charts. By completing it at this exceptional time, students will help to build a picture of the impact COVID-19 is having on young people's lives, their ability to stay active, and overall wellbeing. This is the largest survey looking at young people's sporting behaviours and attitudes towards sport and physical activity. Participation in this survey is completely voluntary and has been designed to reflect the current situation that we find ourselves in.

Please find below the unique URL link needed to complete the survey: Students in years 7, 8 and 9 : <https://ipsos.uk/KOZQJ>

Thank you for your patience with a long letter this week. Please remember the two attachments.

With kind regards

Fergus Stewart
Headteacher