

Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely sunny start we've had to the summer term – it's so nice to get straight back into routine and to have everyone in school. Thank you so much for your support with the use of lateral flow tests at home; just prior to the Easter break these did enable two families to keep asymptomatic positive cases at home meaning that we did not have to send groups of pupils in Years 8 and 9 home to self-isolate. We recommend testing on Sundays and Wednesdays and will issue further test kits when they arrive next week. Lateral flow tests remain a vital part of our school's defence against disruption due to Covid-19 and your support in ensuring regular testing is VERY much appreciated.

Many of our families are now observing the holy month of Ramadan and the Observatory and the Muslim Doctors Association have distributed a new infographic [resource](#) which provides advice on vaccination and testing during Ramadan.

Ofsted Monitoring Visit

I have just received the outcome letter from our Ofsted monitoring visit and this is now on our website and is available for all parents to read by clicking [here](#) and scrolling down. I am delighted that Ofsted recognised the hard work that has gone into the last, somewhat unusual, eighteen months and acknowledged that we are doing all we can to support our pupils through the effects of the pandemic.

School Uniform

Now that the weather is improving, we will be moving away from wearing outdoor coats in lessons. After the May Bank Holiday, coats will not be allowed in lessons. Until the May half term pupils will still be able to wear PE hoodies (or a **plain black hoodie with no zip**) as an additional layer; this is as well as, not instead of, normal uniform. On PE days, pupils should continue to come to school in their PE kit but **MUST** wear a PE T-shirt under their hoodie. Just to clarify:

From Tuesday 4th May onwards – no outdoor coats in lessons.

From Monday 7th June onwards – no hoodies in school on non-PE days.

Pupils must continue to wear faces masks inside the building, including during lessons, until further notice.

Year 8 Parents' Evening – Thursday 29th April

Parents' Evening will take place online next week for Year 8. A letter with all the relevant details has been sent out by Mr Thompson and can be found [here](#) for your reference. As we were unable to hold a Parents' Evening for this year group during the first national lockdown last year, we are really looking forward to meeting with parents (albeit virtually) next week to discuss your child's progress.

Year 11 Grades

We have now received more information from Ofqual about how we are to allocate grades to our Year 11 pupils this summer. We are putting together our processes and in due course we will identify exactly what evidence will be used in each subject to enable us to arrive at fair, rigorous and accurate grades for all pupils. This may include work/assessments/performance records from any point over the last 2 years (including during remote learning) up to and including Friday 28th May. We can only allocate grades based on evidence and not on what pupils might have done if they had revised for and taken an exam. **All work completed this half term will be crucial for pupils to show themselves at their best.** We will inform pupils and parents of the evidence base to be used once it is finalised.

Please note that from this point forward, staff are not allowed to discuss grades with pupils and that any requests for them to do this could be considered to be malpractice.

I would like to reassure Year 11 that we will do our utmost to ensure that grades are fair and accurately reflect pupils' work. I would also remind them that there is still time to make a difference to their outcomes over these next few weeks.

Year 11 will be in lessons full time for the rest of this half term. Their official final day will be Monday 7th June however, unless otherwise indicated, Year 11 students will **not** be expected to be in school on that day. Whilst they will not be expected to attend school, students must remain available should they be required to come to school until Friday 18th June in the event of any further NEA/additional testing requirements from subjects.

We will organise a Leavers' Assembly for the Class of 2021 later in the term.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 29th April Year 8 Parents' Evening

Monday 3rd May Bank Holiday – school is closed

Thursday 10th June Year 7 Parents' Evening

A full set of dates for the summer term and provisional dates for 2021-22 can be found on our website by clicking [here](#) and scrolling down.

I would like to wish all of our pupils and families a pleasant weekend; let's hope the sun continues to shine.

Best wishes, keep safe



Andrea Radcliffe

Headteacher