

Thursday 1st April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of the spring term we have lighter evenings, a slight easing of Covid restrictions and hopefully some decent weather to look forward to after the break. Just 28 working days ago we were still waiting for the Prime Minister to confirm when schools would be allowed to reopen. In that short amount of time we have recruited and trained a team for lateral flow testing, tested over a thousand pupils and staff three times each, reopened fully, issued 2500 home test kits, dismantled our test facility to return the space to the PE department, opened up our 5 new science classrooms and delivered over 4000 face-to-face lessons. It's certainly been a busy few weeks, but by far the best part of all of this is having our pupils back in school! There has been a palpable sense of relief from teachers and pupils (and parents!) that we can return to 'real' teaching and can see pupils with their friends again.

To top off this improved situation, we have had a very positive Ofsted Monitoring Visit this week and I look forward to sharing their outcome letter with you when we receive it. Huge thanks to all those parents and carers who took the time to respond to the Ofsted survey; your feedback is very much appreciated!

Just a few reminders before I sign off for the Easter break:

#### **Contact tracing during the Easter holiday**

I will be on call for the first 6 days of the holiday in case any **pupils develop symptoms of Covid-19 on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> or Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** and subsequently receives a positive PCR test result. I do not need to be informed of pupils developing symptoms after these two days.

If your child does become symptomatic during these two days and a PCR test is positive, please notify me as soon as possible via the button on the home page of our website. This will enable me to identify any close contacts and direct them to self-isolate so that we can minimise virus transmission.

#### **Home test kits**

We are issuing additional home test kits for pupils today which will enable them to test twice weekly throughout the holiday. Please could you ensure that your child undertakes a **home test on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April** so that any positive results can be checked prior to school reopening on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April. If your child does test positive, please arrange a PCR test and let us know about their positive home test result via the button on the home page of our website.

Thank you so much for your support with this initiative. The more we can protect our pupils' time in school the better.

#### **Start of the summer term**

School reopens on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Lesson1 begins at the following times:

Year 7	8:45am
Year 8	9:00am
Year 9	9:00am
Year 10	8:50am
Year 11	8:50am

## Uniform

We will continue to allow pupils to wear additional layers if classrooms are cold. Please note that this is as well as, and not instead of, normal school uniform. Pupils must wear basic uniform and if it is cold, they will be allowed to wear the extra layers.

We have been instructed that pupils must continue to wear face masks in lessons after the Easter break. As and when this is reviewed and advice updated I will let you know.

Just a reminder to give plenty of notice – as we said in the summer of 2020, all pupils will be expected to wear a school blazer from the start of September 2021 as part of their uniform.

## Update relating to the proposed formation of the Tame River Educational Trust

As you may remember, a consultation document was sent out to parents and carers earlier this term relating to the proposal that Hyde High School convert to an academy and co-create a multi-academy trust with three partner schools. The comprehensive due diligence process that was carried out across the four schools has indicated that there are some potential financial risks for Hyde in going forward with this project and so Governors took the difficult decision to withdraw from the process to ensure our ongoing financial stability. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with these three fabulous Tameside schools and I very much hope that, whilst a formal partnership is not now possible at this time, we will continue to work together, whenever the opportunity arises, for the benefit of all our pupils and staff.

## Be a Smartie

Be a Smartie and raise money for the Willow Wood

How much loose change can *you* stack into a Smarties Tube? Take the **Student Leadership Team** challenge and find out.

Fill a tube with coins over the Easter Holidays. The money you fit in your tube is your donation to the Willow Wood Hospice. Our school charity.

Hand in your donation tubes to Miss Brett or Mrs Wrigley

No Smartie tube? Then decorate a toilet roll and use that instead.

**Willow Wood**  
Hospice care for local people



**And finally ...** I wish all of our pupils and families an enjoyable holiday. On behalf of the entire staff team at Hyde, our thanks for all your support throughout another challenging few months. We are looking forward to a positive and productive summer term.

Best wishes, keep safe

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Andrea Radcliffe

Headteacher