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Headteacher: Mrs M. Pye B.A. (Hons) M.A. Ed



4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you had a pleasant half term and are keeping well at this difficult time. I am writing to remind you about a few Covid-related matters and to also celebrate some of our recent successes as a school. Please can I ask you to read the following information carefully.

### **National Lockdown from 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020:**

You will be aware that we are entering another period of national lockdown which means that students should not be meeting up with more than one person at any time outside of school. Any meetings should be outside in a public space and not in private gardens. The full guidance around the restrictions can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#meeting-others-safely>

Legally, students should continue to come to school, and attend as normal, unless they have tested positive for Covid-19, have symptoms of Covid-19, someone in their household has symptoms, someone in their household has tested positive or if they have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace. If any of these scenarios apply, then please contact us and we will advise you about what to do next. The Government have been very clear that all students should be attending school, and we have been asked to apply the usual procedures for unauthorised absences in the same way that we did before Covid.

We are now asking students to wear face coverings in indoor communal areas such as corridors. I am pleased to report that virtually all students have remembered their face coverings and have been complying with this. Please continue to ensure that your child comes to school with a clean face covering each day.

### **Parents Evenings:**

We have been looking at how we can safely conduct Parents' Evenings this year. I am happy to inform you that Parents' Evenings will now be conducted using an online package called 'School Cloud'. This system allows parents to book appointments with their child's teachers for 5 minute appointments. The appointments can take place on a variety of devices including mobile phones. A member of our support team will be in touch with details about how to log onto the system and how it works, closer to a scheduled Parents' Evening for your child. The first Parents' Evening this year is for Year 13 on Wednesday 25 November. Parents for this year

group will receive an email early next week.

**Please note that Year 8 Parents' Evening has moved to Thursday 25th February 2021.**

**University Applications:**

We have had great success again with our initial university applications this year and I am pleased to share that we have had record numbers of students applying to top universities and onto highly regarded courses. In total, we have had 51 applicants for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science with 17 applications to Cambridge and 7 applications to Oxford. We wish all of our Year 13 students the very best in their university applications.

**Counselling Service:**

We have a new counselling service in school for students and parents and we are able to provide a much greater level of provision as a result. If you have any questions about this service or would like to know more, then please contact Mrs Grimley, Associate Deputy Headteacher in charge of inclusion.

**GCSE Pod:**

I wanted to celebrate some news we received this week that we are in the top 20% of users for the online platform, GCSE Pod. Please continue to encourage your child to make use of all of the online platforms that we share with them. Regular use really does make a difference to their learning.

**Character:**

As a school, we are keen to develop much more than the academic side of our students, and as such, we have introduced three specific character strengths that we wish to instil in our students. The three character strengths that we are focusing on are 'courage', 'community' and 'responsibility'. Students who demonstrate these character strengths are rewarded for this via our achievement points system. We would ask you to talk about these aspects of character with your child and to praise your child when he or she demonstrates one of these strengths.

With my very best wishes at what I know may well be a difficult month ahead,

Yours sincerely,



Mrs M Pye  
Headteacher