

## Achieving Excellence

## Principal Mr M Snelson BSc (Hons), PGCE, MSc

February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I'm sure you are aware the country is now in a new phase of COVID-19 – a phase described as Living with COVID. In terms of changes to how we operated prior to the half-term break, we will broadly open to students, on Tuesday 1st March, following very similar arrangements.

This is great news as it means students will continue to be able to embrace a normal Secondary School experience including:

- all our enrichments clubs at lunchtime and after school continuing to run
- a continuation of practical and hands-on learning being implemented, notably in Science, D&T, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Music, Art and PE lessons
- even more sports fixtures, against other schools, with plenty of successes and perhaps a few disappointments
- the sound of music lessons and band rehearsals continuing to echo down the corridors
- impactful lessons involving collaboration with their peers and challenging content carefully sequenced and designed to enable students to think and work hard and have that sense of satisfaction when they crack it
- External examinations in the hall, providing our Year 11 students with the chance to show the examiners what they know and be rewarded for all their efforts in the summer

We will continue to follow the guidance provided by the Department for Education and the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and work closely with the leadership team of the Sir John Brunner Foundation and the other Headteachers within it.

In terms of changes from pre-February half-term, students and colleagues are no longer required to test twice weekly. Close contacts no longer need to test for 7 days. Should a student or colleague have any COVID symptoms, they are advised to test and, if positive, isolate for at least 5 days. If they receive a negative test on the 5<sup>th</sup> day and again on the 6<sup>th</sup> day, it is advised that this is the end of the isolation period. More information is available <a href="here">here</a>. Lateral Flow Tests for students are no longer available from school, they can be collected from a pharmacy or <a href="mailto:online here">online here</a>.



Students and colleagues are still advised to wash their hands regularly and use and dispose of tissues correctly, which is obviously good basic hygiene measures. We will continue to maintain high cleaning standards. Students can help with this by using the bins provided for any litter. This enables our cleaners to use their time cleaning rather than picking up litter. Using the bins is also a fine example of being Respectful and Safe, being good for the environment and local wildlife. We will continue to keep our classrooms as well ventilated as possible. With the warmer weather on its way (fingers crossed) students will not need to wear an additional layer and we expect students to show they are Ready to Learn by wearing their uniform in full and correctly. More information can be found here.

We are continuing with individual year group entrances as we've found this to be a lovely opportunity for our Year Leaders and Education Support Workers to welcome their year group into school, check that they are Ready to Learn and support any student who needs it at the start of the day. We will also continue with our one-way system as this helps the flow of students and colleagues around our busy building.

We are delighted we can continue to deliver face-to face, high quality education, filled with joyous and rewarding experiences to all our students and look forward to helping, supporting and encouraging them to continue to Achieve Excellence in all they do next half-term.

Kind regards,

Mr Snelson

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Principal