



9th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Autumn Term 4

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first ever [Virtual Open Evening](#) this week. The event took the form of a live broadcast which included presentations from the Head Boy and Head Girl, an interview with some Year 7 students, my Principal's speech and then a Q&A session hosted by Deputy Principals, Mrs Williams and Mr Osborne, and Head of Teaching & Learning, Miss Bigden. If you missed it, a recording is on our website together with a [new promotional video](#) which is intended to give prospective students and parents a strong impression of the Collegiate and how we work. The deadline for applications for a place in Year 7 in September 2021 is 31st October 2020.

Welcome to Year 7 Virtual Event

We have now uploaded to our website a series of [short clips](#), each addressing a key issue that parents of Year 7 (and older) students may want to find out more about. We hope they will be useful. In addition, I have enjoyed visiting Year 7 students during their Excellence lessons this week (and still have some groups to visit next week) to hear from them about their experiences so far. I have been very impressed by their effort, positive attitude and superb manners and have been pleased to hear about how they have enjoyed their learning so far and what they are looking forward to. Whilst their start at secondary school may have been unusual, I am sure that the next seven years will be fantastic!

Post-16 Transition

For the majority of students in Year 11, College VI will be the best place for continued success at post-16. Mr Smith, Headteacher of College VI, has [written to Year 11 students](#) and their parents today to outline the transition process and provide information on the courses available. Further information about our excellent Sixth Form provision and opportunities for students to see the superb facilities and talk to College VI teachers will follow soon after half term. Although we are unable to hold our usual College VI Open Evening, we are keen to ensure that students and parents receive high quality information which will help with decision making at this important transition point. For students who intend to follow a more vocational route at a local college, we will share relevant information and support them with applications, as necessary.

Year 13 Virtual Parents Evening

We are looking forward to this virtual event next Tuesday, 13th October 2020. As detailed in the recent [letter to parents](#) we are using the School Cloud online platform to host our Parents Evening events this term. We are really pleased to be able to continue to offer parents the opportunity to meet with staff to discuss the progress of their children and the start they have made to this new term. Please familiarise yourselves with the online platform ahead of next Tuesday and should you have any questions or concerns, please email parentsevening@riddlesdown.org.

Black History Month

Whilst learning about and addressing issues of racial inequality should never be confined to any particular time period, Black History Month in October provides a useful catalyst for discussion and learning. This week, students engaged in a virtual assembly on this topic to raise awareness and provoke thinking. Although, at the Collegiate, different groups of students come together harmoniously and valuing each other is the first statement within The Riddlesdown Commitment, there is always more to do and we continue to examine and refine our curriculum and approaches to pastoral care in order to best educate our community.

Further Remote Learning

Whilst we hope that we will all be able to continue to attend school as normal, we are making arrangements for how we might revert to remote learning at some point, if necessary. We shall write with further details next week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sounick Dey', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Dey
Principal