



16th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Autumn Term 5

As we come to the end of our first half term, I would like to thank students, staff and parents for their contributions towards a successful return to school. The resilience, positive attitude and engagement with learning have been remarkable and I feel confident that the great start we have made to this academic year will provide a solid foundation on which to build further success.

Responding to Positive Test Results

Earlier this week, I wrote to parents to advise of a single positive COVID-19 case in the College VI Bubble. Only a very small number of students were required to self-isolate as close contacts of the individual who tested positive. Yesterday, we received notification of another positive case in the College VI Bubble and, again, a very small number of students have been required to self-isolate. Assuming they are well, all will be able to return to school after the half term break.

With over 2000 people on our site each day, it was inevitable that at some point, we would see a positive case. The fact that we have only seen two cases in 7 weeks is a direct consequence of the efforts that our community has made to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Whilst we hope that anyone who experiences symptoms will quickly be able to obtain a negative test result, if your child does test positive, please take the following steps as soon as possible:

- Contact us by telephone to inform us that your child has tested positive – if a senior member of staff is not available to speak to you immediately, someone will call you back very soon
- Email the NHS confirmation of positive test result to admin@riddlesdown.org
- Do NOT tell other students or parents – making others aware before giving us time to act on the information is likely to cause anxiety and make it more difficult for us to manage the situation with students in school

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Implications of Tier 2

As the alert level in London rises to Tier 2 from tomorrow, there are some implications for the protective measures that must now be taken in secondary schools. **From tomorrow, and whilst we remain in Tier 2, students and adults will now be required to [wear a face mask](#) whilst moving around the site in indoor communal areas, except for in classrooms.** All students must, therefore, bring a face mask to school each day and wear it upon entry to the Collegiate, removing and storing it hygienically, as required. If a student is unable to wear a face mask for medical reasons, please let us know. In such cases, a visor may be worn instead.

I recognise that this change may cause some anxiety but it will now be a requirement and I am grateful for your support in explaining this to your child and helping them to understand that this is now a necessary measure to help protect our community and keep everyone safe.

Year 13 Virtual Parents Evening

Thank you to parents who joined us virtually for the Year 13 Parents Evening this week and for the feedback received. We realise that whilst the technology seemed to work well for some, it clearly did not for others. Where things did not work well, we are trying to understand why so that we can make things better for the next time. I hope that parents have been able to receive feedback and have constructive discussions with teachers now, whether it was through the virtual meetings or telephone calls. Please do get in touch if you were unable to speak with a specific teacher.

Summer Exams 2021

It was confirmed this week that the vast majority of [GCSE and A Level examinations](#) will take place from 7th June – 2nd July 2021 with A Level Results Day on Tuesday 24th August 2021 and GCSE Results Day on Friday 27th August 2021. In addition, there may be a very small number of examinations before the May half term. This will provide three more weeks of teaching time to help prepare students most effectively.

Uniform

The smart wearing of correct school uniform is central to the ethos of the Collegiate as it demonstrates pride in the school and a readiness to work. The vast majority of students wear the correct uniform and wear it proudly each day. Unfortunately, a minority of students are choosing not to wear their uniform correctly despite numerous general reminders and several individual warnings. Please remind girls that skirts should not be rolled at the waist or worn at an unacceptably short length, socks or tights can be worn but not both, and only one small stud should be worn in an earlobe. The school skirt is available from Hewitts and should be long enough so that it is worn to the centre of the knee. Any broken school shoes should also be replaced as trainers are not allowed.

Further Remote Learning

Whilst we hope that we will all be able to continue with regular on site provision indefinitely, you will have seen details of our plans for further remote learning in Miss Bigden's letter earlier this week. If you have not yet responded to the requests for consent, I would be grateful if you would do that at your earliest convenience so that we can begin the next half term fully prepared.

I wish everyone a restful half term break and look forward to welcoming students and staff back to the Collegiate on Monday 2nd November 2020 at 8.20am for students in Years 7-9 and at 9.30am for students in Years 10-13.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dey
Principal