



13th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Autumn Term 8

Face Masks

The vast majority of students are remembering to bring a face mask (and a spare) each day – thank you. However, we are still having to issue some every morning to those who have forgotten. It is a requirement for all students and adults to wear a mask in indoor communal areas on the site. We shall not refuse admittance, but we cannot keep providing face masks to those who do not have one, free of charge. Therefore, from Monday, anyone who does not bring a face mask will be required to purchase a reusable one for £2 (deducted from ParentPay accounts).

Year 11 Parents Evening

Thank you to parents of Year 11 students who met with teachers virtually at this event. We have received much positive feedback and so I am pleased that it appears that the technology worked well this time. I hope that the discussions were constructive in supporting students as they begin to prepare for mock exams after Christmas. I know that this week's news of GCSE and A Level exams being cancelled next summer in Wales may have added to the uncertainty over what will happen in England. At this time, we are told that exams will take place, albeit slightly delayed, commencing on 7th June 2021. As always, mock exams will provide great opportunities to practise and learn from experience, but, in addition, there is the possibility that they may be used to support the award of grades, if necessary, and this makes them even more important. A timetable will follow soon.

Positive Cases

This week, we have been notified of two further positive cases: one in the KS3 Phoenix Bubble (in a different Year Group to the previous case) and one in the Year 11 Bubble, both of which have required a number of students who have been identified as close contacts to begin a period of self-isolation today. **All other students should continue to attend school as normal, unless they themselves or a household member has symptoms.** I realise that each additional case has the potential to increase anxiety, but I would like to reassure you that the number of cases still represents a very small proportion of our school population and that the local Health Protection Team has confirmed that this is a likely consequence of the effectiveness with which we are implementing the system of controls.

Kindness

Today, on National Kindness Day, students watched a virtual assembly which addressed the importance and the impact on others and on oneself of being kind. Valuing each other is deliberately the first of the VALUES in The Riddlesdown Commitment and, in such trying times, we should be especially grateful for the ways in which all members of our community continue to care for each other and help one another through difficult experiences. Thank you, all.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Dey
Principal