



4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Principal's Update – Autumn Term 9**

### *Parents Evenings*

Thank you to parents of Year 8 and Year 12 students who met with teachers virtually at these events over the last two weeks. We are continuing to tweak aspects of the management of these events, but are encouraged by the positive feedback received. A number of parents have indicated that they appreciate the flexibility of a virtual event and actually prefer being able to avoid leaving the house on a cold evening and having to navigate the car park! At this stage, there are no plans to reintroduce face-to-face events at school and, even when they may become possible again, we shall carefully consider whether the alternatives that we have been using might actually be better long term solutions in some cases. Your feedback is always valuable.

### *Year 11 Mock Exams*

The [Year 11 Mock Exam timetable](#) has now been published, together with [guidance notes](#) for students. To follow up on the recent [letter](#) I wrote to students, the Senior Leadership Team will be visiting Tutor Group over the course of next week to offer reassurance and advice. As part of that, we shall also talk about the [extra measures](#) that the government has announced to support students ahead of next summer's exams. Whilst students may understandably be feeling anxious, excessive stress will be unproductive and unhealthy and so we are keen to help students to maintain a sense of balance. Year 10 students have also been [sent details](#) and [guidance notes](#) about their [Mock RE exam and the CAMNAT public exam](#), that all students are taking in January.

### *Punctuality*

As it gets colder, we have been concerned by the number of students in Years 10-13, who are not arriving on time in the morning. These students should arrive between 9.00am – 9.25am, so that they have time to wash their hands and be in their lesson when it begins at 9.30am. In order to avoid keeping students on site beyond the school day or further shortening their lunch break, we are not detaining students for poor punctuality – instead, we are talking to them about the importance of arriving on time and the disruption that being late causes. Parents are alerted to late arrival and can monitor punctuality through the Parent Portal. If you identify this issue with your child, please reinforce the message.

### *School Trips*

When I wrote to parents about reopening plans in July, I indicated that there would be no school trips during the Autumn Term and that I would review the position prior to Christmas. At this time, the advice from the government has not changed and so the suspension of school trips will continue during the Spring Term. The advice is due to be reviewed in February for possible implementation in the Summer Term and so we remain hopeful that we shall still be able to provide some opportunities this academic year.

### *Self-Isolation*

After a period of almost two weeks where no students were required to self-isolate as a consequence of being a close contact of a positive case in school, this week, unfortunately a positive case in Year 10 led to a large number of students being affected. At the same time, staff absence has been higher this week, mainly due to illness or self-isolation. We hope that the combination of work set on Google Classroom, the recorded lessons that teachers are providing, the live lessons that are being delivered through Google Meet and the telephone contact with students at home is effectively supporting continuity of learning, but please do contact your child's Tutor if you have any particular questions or concerns.

### *End of Term*

The last day of term, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020, will be a non-uniform day and students are asked to donate £1 to charity (to be collected earlier in that week). This year, we shall be donating all proceeds to two local charities whose work has been especially important during the pandemic: [Purley Food Hub](#) and [Mind in Croydon](#). Students should arrive at their usual time but will be dismissed before lunch, following a shortened timetable which will finish with a special end of term virtual event in Tutor Groups:

Years 7-9	
8.20am – 8.40am	Tutor Period
8.40am – 9.30am	Period 1
9.30am – 10.20am	Period 2
10.20am – 10.40am	Break
10.40am – 11.30am	Period 3
11.30am – 12.10pm	End of Term Event
12.10pm	Dismissal

Years 10-13	
9.30am – 10.20am	Period 2
10.20am – 11.10am	Period 3
11.10am – 11.30am	Break
11.30am – 12.20pm	Period 4
12.20pm – 1.00pm	End of Term Event
1.00pm	Dismissal

### *Do you have a message for our staff?*

Whilst it has been fantastic to have welcomed students back to the Collegiate this term and fortunate that we have been able to remain open through the second lockdown, it has been an incredibly challenging term for both students and staff. Teachers have needed to adapt to moving classrooms several times a day in order to teach across "bubbles", remembering to ensure that they always have the necessary equipment and resources in the right places. At the same time, they have been keen to ensure that students who have been forced into self-isolation have been able to keep up with their work through Google Classroom. Teachers have also learnt how to deliver a live lesson remotely to students at home, whilst still having some students in front of them in the classroom. And they have been prepared to take additional lessons when, inevitably, colleagues have been absent through illness or self-isolation. I would like to publicly thank all of our staff for the huge efforts they have made to enable the Collegiate to continue to operate, enabling students to continue learning and supporting others through such a challenging period. If you would like to send an end-of-term message to our staff (not an individual, just a general message to all), [please use this link](#) (open until 14<sup>th</sup> December) – I will be pleased to share your messages and I know that our team will be very appreciative.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dey  
Principal