



29th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Spring Term 4

The Prime Minister's [announcement](#) this week confirmed that there would be no wider reopening of schools immediately after half term, but that it is hoped that the wider reopening could commence on 8th March 2021. We expect to have the details confirmed by 22nd February 2021 so we should be able to plan accordingly then. In the meantime, except for vulnerable students and the children of key workers who have continued to access on-site provision throughout lockdown, all other students will continue with [Remote Learning](#), following the revised timetables that have been in operation since the start of this week, for at least another four weeks – two weeks now until half term and two weeks afterwards. During half term, w/c 15th February 2021, there will be no Remote Learning, nor any on-site provision – everyone will take a short break!

Feedback to Students

It is great to see the level of student engagement during synchronous lessons and students' efforts with work completed independently also. Many students are uploading work for their teachers, above and beyond what they have been asked to submit. They are also keen to communicate with their teachers, often seeking clarification or advice. These are fantastic indicators of students' motivation and are to be encouraged. Students should note, however, without disappointment, that teachers may not be able to respond to every piece of work submitted or every message immediately. They value students' efforts and will provide feedback in response to specific pieces of work; many teachers are also now using alternative approaches to feedback (voice recordings, for example), which students seem to find very helpful. Teachers will also respond to messages, either directly or through lessons, but may not be able to do this immediately. Thank you for understanding.

Riddlesdown Collegiate Community Site

We have created a [Riddlesdown Collegiate Community Site](#), with the aim of bringing the Riddlesdown Community together. Students will be able to interact with their home College, connect with the CPA College and develop their cultural capital. There is a plethora of resources online and this site aims to select some of the very best resources we can find. The Community site is where we will launch our inter-College competitions and challenges, as well as launch well-being initiatives and keep students abreast of current affairs. The site is an ongoing project and will evolve and change regularly. Please encourage your child to explore the site and get involved.

College VI Guidance Interviews

Well done to Year 11 students for their mature engagement and positive attitude towards the College VI Guidance Interviews, which we enjoyed conducting virtually this week. Students clearly recognise that [College VI](#) is the place to be for sixth form success and we look forward to enrolment in the summer following the publication of GCSE results. The Facilities Team has been taking

advantage of the lockdown by advancing some the further development work in College VI: three more classrooms have been created, adding to the excellent post-16 teaching and learning spaces.

Year 10 Parents Evening

Thank you to parents and students who attended the virtual Year 10 Parents Evening this week. I hope that discussions were constructive and that the personal contact was valuable.

Holocaust Memorial Day

A group of students were honoured to be involved in a [virtual memorial service](#) organised by Croydon Council this week. They contributed to and won the SACRE Holocaust Competition – congratulations to Rebecca Harker 9SAG, Lyra White 9AKM, Millie Harrison 9SAG and Miss Papanastasiou for her organisation.

Keeping Fit!

Well done to everyone who has already participated in @RiddlesdownPE's latest fitness challenge which uses "FOCUS" as an approach to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Details are in Google Classroom, on the Riddlesdown Collegiate Community Site and on Twitter – students, staff and their families are all welcome to get involved.

Staying in Touch

I hope that the number of synchronous lessons, Tutor Periods on Mondays and Thursdays and phone calls from Tutors (plus additional contact for vulnerable students who are not attending on-site provision), together with community initiatives and our regular communications are helping to ensure that everyone continues to feel connected and cared for, despite not actually seeing each other in person. If at any time, you have a question or a concern, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Tutor or use admin@riddlesdown.org for any general enquiries.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dey
Principal