



5th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Spring Term 5

Over the last month, I have been really impressed to see how students and teachers have adapted to and embraced new ways of learning. With further experience, I am confident that we will continue to see improvements in the quality of our provision. That said, I am keen that we ascertain from parents how well things are working at this point and so I would be grateful if you would spend five minutes completing this very short survey before next Friday, 12th February 2021.

Children's Mental Health Week

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, you may have seen that the Prime Minister has appointed Dr Alex George as the Youth Mental Health Ambassador. The theme of this year's campaign run by mental health charity [Place2Be](#) has been "Express Yourself" with the focus on children finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas through creativity. A [toolkit of resources](#) for children, staff and parents has been published and could be used in conjunction with our regular work to support good mental health and wellbeing.

Extra-Curricular Activities

In support of wellbeing and in addition to the opportunities to engage in wider learning launched through the Riddlesdown Collegiate Community Site last week, I am pleased that we are now able to offer a range of virtual extra-curricular activities from next week. The timetable of activities is being sent to students and parents separately today. There is a link for most activities on the timetable, so students can simply join by clicking on the link at the correct time. For all except the Drama & Technology Club (where there is a limit on numbers and so a google form will need to be completed first), there is no need to sign up for these activities in advance – just turn up! **It is really important that these links are not shared with anyone outside of Riddlesdown Collegiate.** Students must read and follow the guidance before attending the event and then spotlight the member of staff running the session. In accordance with our live lesson policy, sessions will be recorded. We hope that students will take this opportunity to engage in wider, extra-curricular activities. Getting active and being creative are the best ways to improve mental health!

Jack Petchey Digital Awards

I was delighted to watch the Jack Petchey Digital Awards ceremony this week, which celebrated the outstanding achievements of young people and adult leaders at Riddlesdown Collegiate. This awards ceremony was particularly special as it showcased the resilience, willpower and determination displayed by students and staff in our community to overcome the challenges presented during the first national lockdown. Well done to all of the award winners – details of their achievements can be seen [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Mr S Dey
Principal