



26th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Spring Term 7

I am delighted to let you know that thanks to the incredible efforts of our Facilities Team and our IT Team, power has now been fully restored to our site and much of the damage caused by flooding has already been repaired. Consequently, we shall be able to move our on site provision for vulnerable students and the children of key workers back from *The Quest Academy* from Monday, 1st March 2021 and we can accelerate our preparations for the return of all students the following week. Whilst there is still some repair work to complete, the outstanding damage will not cause any significant operational difficulties – which is a huge relief!

As you will know from my [letter](#) dated 24th February 2021, we are planning the first of three tests for students who wish to take it on 8th-10th March 2021, before all students return to the Collegiate on Thursday, 11th March 2021. Next week, we shall send appointment times and I will write with further details and reminders for the following week. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Year 11 Parents Evening

Thank you to parents of Year 11 students who attended the virtual Parents Evening this week. I hope that discussions were constructive and that they have supported students in identifying the next steps they should take to make progress in their learning. The [outcome of the consultation](#) on the process for awarding GCSEs and A Levels this summer was published yesterday. We shall take some time to understand the implications and then write to Year 11 & Year 13 students and their parents in due course.

Year 9 Options

The [Options Site](#) for Year 9 students is now live and is full of useful information to support decision making about courses for Key Stage 4. Together with Parents Evening next Tuesday (2nd) and Options Evening the following Thursday (11th), we hope that students will feel well-supported as they make these important choices. Younger students may also wish to explore the Options Site as a way of looking ahead to the future – it's never too early.

Parent Governor Vacancies

Thank you to parents who have expressed an interest in becoming a Parent Governor. Just a reminder that nominations for the two vacancies on the Local Governing Body must be submitted by 10.00am on 1st March 2021. Please refer to my previous [letter](#) for further details.

RiddlesdownFitt Challenge

Last Sunday, the *RiddlesdownFitt Challenge* came to a climax after 28 days. This was an optional challenge which students could take part in as part of the *Labores Ludorum* competition. Students designed their own four week FOCUS fitness programme and they were encouraged to tailor the programme to suit their own individual needs. 453 entries were submitted over the four weeks and it was fantastic to see the range of activities and challenges, including workouts, walks with families, playing board games, listening to music, reading books and many more. The competition was very close throughout and here are the final standings: 1st Aquila, 2nd Phoenix, 3rd Orion, 4th Pegasus. Well done to everyone who took part and to Mr Langan, Director of Sport, for his constant motivation.

Catch-Up Plans

This week, we heard that the government would be funding a range of [catch-up initiatives](#) to help children “recover the lost learning” from lockdown. We await further details and will then want to respond accordingly so that any such activities can have the most positive impact on students. I am clear, however, that whilst students have undoubtedly missed out on many opportunities over the last 12 months (not least the opportunity to spend time together), it would not be fair or correct to assume that everyone has fallen behind. For many students, their efforts have continued to lead to good progress in their learning. I am also clear that the very best form of catch up will be consistent, high quality teaching in classrooms – exactly what we deliver every day and are looking forward to returning to very shortly.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dey
Principal