



19th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Spring Term 10

I have been pleased to see excellent attendance maintained this week and superb engagement in lessons across the Collegiate. Even with the system of controls still in place, everyone just appears happy to be back and I find myself smiling under my mask when I see students' enthusiasm in lessons and hear them playing and laughing together in playgrounds. This is how school should be and this is what we have missed.

Testing

Yesterday, we completed the third round of lateral flow tests for all students who wished to participate – that was almost 5000 tests in total over the last two weeks, all returning negative results. Students have now been able to collect self-test kits for use at home – they should have enough for twice weekly tests to last for the rest of term and we will distribute more just before the Easter break. The organisation and administration of this operation have been huge tasks and I would like to thank all members of staff who have contributed to the process, all whilst re-establishing routines and settling students back to regular lessons.

Examinations & Centre Assessment Grades

Thank you to parents of Year 13 students who attended the virtual Parents Evening this week. I hope that discussions with teachers were constructive. Since then, Mr Osborne, Deputy Principal, has [written](#) to parents of students in Years 10, 11 & 13 to outline plans for the next few months, including details of exams which will support teachers in the process of determining Centre Assessment Grades. These arrangements may require internal exams for other Year Groups to be rescheduled during the Summer Term; we shall confirm nearer the time.

Uniform

As we have returned to school, we have been sympathetic where students may have been unable to replace items of uniform during lockdown. Please note, however, that Hewitts of Croydon and Kukri (PE kit) both remain open for online orders. I would be grateful if parents would ensure that students were correctly dressed for school, following the usual [uniform requirements](#) or the College VI dress code, as appropriate. In particular, please take note of non-uniform items that should not be brought to the Collegiate and the rules on jewellery. A reminder that when students have PE lessons, they should come to school in regular PE kit.

It was a year ago on this day that we sent students home for the first lockdown, unsure as to when we would be able to welcome them back. A year on, whilst we are still living and working differently, we reflect on what we have learnt and how our experience will help us to emerge from the pandemic in an even stronger position. On this anniversary, I would like to thank all members of our community – our students, parents, staff and governors – for their efforts and determination to ensure that Riddlesdown Collegiate remains a special place for us all.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Dey
Principal