



12th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Spring Term 9

It has been fantastic to welcome students back to the Collegiate this week. With 97% attendance, it is clear how much students have valued being back in classrooms with their friends.

Asymptomatic Testing

Over the first three days of this week, we were pleased to see about 1500 students for their first lateral flow test – all of which returned negative results. We then began the second round of lateral flow tests on Thursday when all students returned to the Collegiate. The third and final round of lateral flow tests will take place next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. As students come for their final test on site, they will be given self-test kits to take home for subsequent use every 3-5 days. They will be given enough tests for the rest of term. Thank you to everyone who has participated and supported with this complex operation.

Year 9 Virtual Options Evening

Thank you to Year 9 students and their parents for joining us for the Virtual Options Evening this week. We have received a number of messages already with very positive feedback from this event – thank you and I hope that everyone found the presentations and Q&A sessions to be useful and informative. Recordings are now available on the [Options Site](#). Course choices should now be submitted by 19th March 2021.

College VI Adjustments

Although we were not planning to use the Library at all for the rest of this term, we have made some temporary provision for a limited number of students to work in a socially distanced arrangement when they are not in lessons and cannot easily work off site. In addition, we will look to make some timetabling adjustments, where possible, so that fewer students are in this position. We understand that the current arrangements are not ideal, but they are temporary and intended to reduce the risk of transmission at this time. We appreciate students' patience and understanding.

Being Thankful!

In my assembly this week, despite the undeniable challenges that each of us has faced over the last year, I encouraged students to reflect on all the things they can be thankful about – their health, their families, their education and much more. Being thankful helps us to be happier and consequently more optimistic for the future. We have much to look forward to and now, with our community back together, we can enjoy rebuilding again and restoring all that we had and more.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Dey
Principal