



1st April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Spring Term 12

As we come to the end of another unusual term, I would like to thank...

- *Students* – for their resilience throughout lockdown and great effort back in lessons
- *Parents* – for their support with Remote Learning, encouragement and positive feedback
- *Staff* – for their hard work and commitment to supporting students' learning and wellbeing

Home Test Kits & Contact Tracing

Home test kits have now been distributed to students for whom consent has been received. These should be used over the Easter break and into the first week of term. Since our return to school four weeks ago, there have been no reported positive cases amongst students and, consequently, no students have been required to self-isolate as a close contact. We hope that this will continue to be the case. If, however, within 48 hours of last being in school, a student begins to suffer COVID-19 symptoms and subsequently tests positive (on a PCR test, which is necessary in symptomatic cases or as confirmation following a positive lateral flow test), please inform us immediately at admin@riddlesdown.org so that we can begin the contact tracing process. There is no need to let us know immediately if symptoms began more than 48 hours after last being in school or if a subsequent PCR test leads to a negative result.

Year 13 Exams

These will commence on the first day of term – students have received timetables. Regular Year 13 lessons are suspended during w/c 19th April 2021 and so students should only attend for their scheduled exams. We wish them the best of luck.

Year 11 Exams

These will commence on 23rd April 2021 and will stretch over two weeks – students have received [timetables](#) and been directed to revision lists. Further details on logistical arrangements will be shared with students and parents in the first week back after Easter.

Reinforcing Standards

A couple of weeks ago, I commented on how we had been sympathetic to students upon their return to school with regards to missing or incorrect items of uniform in recognition of the circumstances that some will have faced and in order to support their re-engagement. It has now been four weeks and we have the Easter break ahead of us, during which time we expect that Hewitts of Croydon will re-open (their online ordering service has been available throughout) – plenty of time to have ensured that uniform is complete and correct. We know that holding high expectations of our students in every area is a key factor in their success – it helps to cultivate an ethos of pride and ambition which leads to outstanding achievement – and so we shall reinforce these standards rigorously and would be grateful for parents' support. Uniform requirements and the College VI dress code are detailed [here](#) on our website. In particular, please note:

- All students in Years 7-11 are required to wear a blazer
- Shoes should be plain black and leather – trainers are not allowed
- No jewellery, except for a single pair of studs worn in the lower ear, is allowed;
- Hair should not be dyed an unnatural colour

We have a small supply of second-hand uniform, available for sale at the Collegiate. Please send any enquiries to admin@riddlesdown.org with details of what you are looking for.

System of Controls – Summer Term

When we returned to school in w/c 8th March 2021, we made some adjustments to our system of controls, including the wearing of face masks in classrooms (from DfE guidance) and avoiding the use of crowded spaces like the College VI Common Room and PE changing rooms. We are expecting a review of the guidance before the start of the summer term. At this time, we should assume that all of the measures we are taking now will continue into the new term, but I will write with any further update before we return, if necessary.

As the weather looks to be improving and restrictions begin to ease, I hope that everyone has a very enjoyable and restful Easter break. The summer term will commence on Monday, 19th April 2021 – I look forward to seeing everyone back at the Collegiate then.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dey
Principal