



30th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Summer Term 2

I am pleased to announce that the Collegiate has been granted planning permission for a new building project that will further extend our College VI facilities and deliver a brand new Fitness Suite for use in PE. The two-storey building will fill the space currently between the Sports Hall and the Gym and the first floor will link to the College VI Common Room via a connecting bridge. We expect building works to begin next month so that, ideally, the new facilities will be ready for use at the start of next academic year. This investment, together with the recent refurbishment of the College VI classrooms and Common Room and the extension of the College VI Café, will ensure that College VI has ample space and excellent facilities for our outstanding Sixth Form. At the same time, the enhancement to PE facilities will be well used by students during lessons, by students and staff out of lessons and the wider community through evening lettings.

Change of Timings for Years 10-13 on Monday 17th May & Monday 24th May 2021 only

The process of moderating students' work and preparing Centre Assessment Grades for students who would have been taking public exams this summer is a significant and complex task. We need to ensure that teachers have sufficient time to work together to undertake this work diligently.

Therefore, on Monday 17th May and Monday 24th May only, students in Years 10-13 should:

- arrive between 8.20 – 8.40am
- go directly to Period 1 at 8.40am – this will be their usual Period 7 lesson
- follow their usual timetable for Periods 2-6 (including their usual break and lunch)
- attend Tutor Period from 2.30 – 2.50pm
- be dismissed at 2.50pm

This will allow teachers to begin their meetings at 3.00pm, giving them a longer period of time to complete this important work. There will be no change to the timings of these days for Years 7-9. Apologies for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Removal of Staggered Timings from 7th June 2021

As the summer term progresses, we expect to be able to relax some aspects of our system of controls. Whilst operating a staggered day this academic year has had some advantages, overall, the implications of staggered arrangements lead to a more challenging and complex operation. Therefore, **after half term, from 7th June 2021, we shall remove staggered arrangements and have all students in Years 7-10 & 12 following the same times of day (8.20am – 2.30pm).** (Year 11 and Year 13 students will no longer be in attendance.) This means that all Period 7 lessons will move to Period 1 and Year 10 & 12 students will have Tutor Period in the morning (at the same time as Years 7-9).

“Bubbles” will remain intact, but there will be some changes to the entrances/exits, dining spaces and toilets used. At the same time, we shall reassign some classrooms to make better use of gained spaces and avoid classrooms that may be affected by the building works that will have begun. By then, we also expect to have reviewed other aspects of our operation, including the wearing of face masks, the use of large indoor spaces (e.g. College VI Common Room, Library) and the use of vending machines.

The timings of the school day for 2021/22 are yet to be confirmed. They are likely to revert to the timings we operated in 2019/20, or very similar, but we are currently evaluating some aspects of our operation which may lead to some minor adjustments. We expect to finalise these details by half term.

Temporary Closure of White Path

Students have been advised that the White Path (the footpath in front of the Collegiate along Dunmail Drive) is due to be closed next week, w/c 3rd May 2021, and so alternative routes will need to be used. All students, especially those in Year 11 continuing to take exams next week, should plan accordingly and leave plenty of time to ensure punctual arrival.

Second Hand Uniform

Thank you to parents who have been contacting us to donate second hand uniform items that are in good condition but no longer needed. Blazers and Kukri PE kit are the most sought after items and all donations are gratefully received. Please send us a message at admin@riddlesdown.org or send items with your child asking him/her to deliver to Student Services. Thank you.

Reporting Lateral Flow Test Results

This week, we distributed further home test kits to those students who are participating. Thank you for continuing with this. We are being reminded of the importance of reporting test results, in addition to taking tests – please see the [advice here](#).

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

As the founder of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award (DofE), HRH The Duke of Edinburgh has left an incredible legacy through DofE that has had a life changing impact on generations of young people, giving them the opportunity to take on new challenges, pursue their passions, discover new skills and develop personal qualities that have not only made a positive difference to their own lives but have made a difference in their community. Riddlesdown Collegiate has been offering DofE for over 25 years and we have seen first-hand the positive impact it has in empowering our students with the skills, confidence and resilience to make the most of life and make a difference to the world around them. We would love to hear from students past and present, about their [memories and experiences of their involvement in DofE](#) and we look forward to offering students the opportunity to enrol in DofE again soon.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend. The Collegiate will re-open on Tuesday, 4th May 2021.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dey
Principal