



18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

As I write, we are approaching the end of the second week of having our students back on site for their learning.

For some, the prospect of returning to on-site learning was the cause of some apprehension and anxiety. With so much change over the last twelve months, our students have had to show courage and strength on many occasions. Once again, we have been extremely impressed by the positivity and resilience shown by all of our school community, with everyone embracing the opportunities that returning to the classroom has brought. It has been wonderful to see friends reunite and hear laughter around the school but above all, see familiar smiling faces both inside and outside of the classroom. The students have brought life back into the school.

Thank you for your help in preparing our young people for their return. We were acutely aware that many of our students were looking forward to coming back into school but also that they were nervous about engaging with the Lateral Flow Testing programme. All of the students who have been part of the testing programme have been extremely brave and presenting themselves superbly. The wonderful team of volunteers in the testing centre, many of whom are parents, have commented on how polite, articulate and personable our students are. In fact, the manner in which the students have behaved has resulted in some of the volunteers offering additional hours in the centre! The realisation of the testing centre has been very much a team effort. We absolutely could not have done it without the generosity of our volunteers, all from our parent body and the local community. From the professional construction of the centre itself to the warm and encouraging manner of the testing team, I am extremely proud of what we have achieved. What had once seemed like an impossible task, in true Piggott style, has become one of our success stories. Another example of the strength of our wider school community.

We continue to ensure that we adhere to all of the COVID safety measures on site. Students and staff remain committed to protecting themselves and each other. Our expectations in this regard are high and our students work hard to meet them. The tracking and tracing of asymptomatic cases is still an extremely important part of protecting our community and we have begun to distribute the home testing kits to our students. If students are able and willing to take part in testing, we encourage them to read the leaflet carefully and follow the guidance enclosed. If a student feels unwell, experiencing COVID related symptoms, it is imperative that they remain at home and take a test. If a positive case is confirmed in school, we will complete the track and trace process to minimise risk and stop the spread of the virus.

As the spring term progresses and the summer term begins, we are focusing on supporting our students in establishing a new routine, recognising success and reflecting on their own mental well-being. For their learning, we will work hard to re-establish motivation, identify and challenge misconceptions and pick up the pace so that they can feel the excitement and buzz that collaborative learning brings.



We will be working closely with Year 11 and Year 13 to give them every opportunity to perform well and demonstrate their skill and understanding in all of their qualifications prior to the Teacher Assessment Grade process commencing. We remain extremely proud of all of our students and when it is safe, we are looking forward to coming together in the school hall for assemblies, achievement celebrations and other special annual events that we have really missed.

Please be assured that our partnership with you remains incredibly important to us. The last twelve months have been challenging in so many ways and we know that working together to overcome adversity can be extremely powerful. To quote Charlie Mackesy, as I often do, 'What's the greatest illusion? Said the boy. 'That life should be perfect' replied the Horse. In times such as these, perhaps we should learn to be a little kinder to ourselves and simply accept that we are doing the very best that we can and that is enough. If you are concerned about the wellbeing of your son or daughter or you would be grateful for some help as a family, please be confident that any contact you make with us in this regard will always be met with empathy and kindness. Together we are stronger, and together, we will find better times ahead.

Please do keep in touch and thank again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs R Alexander

Deputy Headteacher



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