

23rd April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to welcome all parents, carers, staff and students back to the start of a new term and provide a short update on a number of pressing matters. The students have returned in a very positive manner this week and I would like to thank parents and carers for supporting us to maintain standards as requested in my most recent update. We have noticed that a small but significant number of students have been wearing jewellery on their return and I would ask parents to remind their children to remove items that they may have been wearing over the weekend prior to their return to school every Monday morning.

Guidance on Face Coverings

As anticipated, the DfE updated their guidance on the use of face coverings in schools during the Easter holidays. The announcement from the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson recommended that face coverings should continue to be worn in indoor areas where social distancing was not possible. This includes within classrooms. Mr Williamson also noted that it is expected that face coverings will no longer be required to be worn in classrooms, or by students in other communal areas, at step three in the roadmap, which will be no earlier than 17th May.

We very much appreciate that this is a cautious approach but we will continue to follow the Government guidance related to face coverings and other mitigations. I must again commend the students at the school for their excellent approach towards the use of face coverings and thank parents and carers for their support. I would also ask parents and carers to continue to stress the importance of continuing to engage with all Covid measures including continuing to undertake regular testing, managing social distancing where possible and continuing to promote excellent hand and respiratory hygiene.

GCSE and A Level Assessments

I would like to congratulate all students in Years 11 and 13 for the excellent start that they have made to their formal assessments that began on Wednesday of this week. I am pleased to be able to report that the examinations regulator and the exam boards have published additional guidance and support materials over the Easter holidays to support school leaders and staff with regard to how to make decisions about student grades and have also provided additional guidance for parents and students regarding the processes. This guidance can be found [here](#).

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

I would again like to provide a gentle reminder to parents and carers **not** to contact staff at the school about their child's grades. Ofqual has made it clear in their guidance that this may constitute malpractice and we are obliged to record all instances where this occurs and where significant infringements occur, are compelled to report these to the exam boards.

Unfortunately, there still has been no indication from the Department for Education (DfE) as to when students in Years 11 and 13 will be able to complete their academic year. I know that this is causing significant frustration for some students and parents and given this, I will ensure that parents and carers are updated at the earliest possible opportunity.

Parental Consultation Evenings Summer Term

A gentle reminder that the Parental Consultation Evenings for parents and carers of students in Years 10 and 7 will take place on Thursday 29th April and Thursday 13th May respectively. All parent's events will continue to be conducted remotely and we will provide details about how to book meetings with staff and how to access the School Cloud system prior to the evenings.

Stephen Lawrence Day

Students marked Stephen Lawrence Day on Thursday with a series of tutorial tasks and activities that required them to reflect on Stephen's story and the implications of his life and death on wider society. Parents and carers who wish to learn more about Stephen Lawrence can do so by visiting <https://stephenlawrenceday.org/>

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Mullings
Headteacher