



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of this first term I just wanted to briefly write to thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding. I know for many families it was a big ask to put faith in sending your children back to school in the middle of the ongoing pandemic. I know and recognise that doing so required you putting a lot of trust in us, as an Academy, particularly when there were still many questions that we could still not provide answers to. I hope that for the last 8 weeks your children have returned home feeling that they have had a good day's education and that they have felt as safe as possible in the current climate.

When the Government announced the closure of schools in March I know that none of us expected it to be for quite as long as it ended up being. I also know that for many of us (including me) we hoped that some form of magic would happen over the Summer period so that when we reopened in September we would be able to quite quickly return to "normal". It is probably clear to all of us now that the old normal is still some way away and therefore I wanted to thank you, in advance, for the continued support over the next term and beyond. Although we hope to keep disruption to a minimum it is likely we will see further, hopefully isolated, cases of corona virus which will continue to have an impact on our students, families, staff and wider community. We continue to work behind the scenes in ensuring we are as prepared as possible for any confirmed cases both in the steps we take in the immediate aftermath but also in the days that follow to ensure that any students who are affected by isolation notices continue to be able to receive education as smoothly as possible. As per my letter earlier this week we continue to follow Public Health England and Government advice and policies which continue to evolve as more information and data is gathered. I will continue to update families with any significant changes to the steps we are required to take upon notification of any positive test results.

I also wanted to offer an apology and to thank you formally for your patience and understand with regards our 'Tutor Evening' this term in regards the failure of our phone system (first time we have tried to make that many consecutive phone calls and it turns out our system cannot cope with that level) and for engaging a second time. We have learned from this and are investigating additional systems. As it looks like restrictions are here to stay for the foreseeable we are also looking at how we can manage upcoming parents' evenings and other events so please look out for future communications.

Finally, I hope that your children and you as a family get some much needed rest over the coming week. Our students have been incredible since we returned. They have shown so much resilience and positive engagement but, as I have definitely seen in my own two boys, I am sure they will be thoroughly exhausted (not that I am giving any of our students an excuse to say they need to stay in bed more!) I appreciate that Year 11 are returning to their first set of mock exams and I know they will be keen to be doing some good revision (which is great) but please also encourage them to take some good breaks. I hope all of our families are able to take some quality time where able and within the current restrictions.

All students return on Monday 2nd November at normal time (in by 8:30am please) so until then yours sincerely and best wishes,

Kind regards

Mr C Shaw
Principal

