



1 April 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **This term!**

As we reach the end of a long term it is worth reflecting that we began with an INSET day on January 4<sup>th</sup> that was capped by a speech from Boris Johnson announcing a new lockdown. From there we switched to remote learning on January 5<sup>th</sup> and launched our key worker and vulnerable student pop up school. Alongside this we began staff Covid testing and then student onsite testing. Students returned to school from March 8<sup>th</sup> for onsite lessons with three rounds of Lateral Flow tests around this date. Since then we have had four weeks of lessons and learning with an attendance rate of approximately 95% (which is almost 10% above the national average), with Year 11s working hard on their assessment work in preparation for their final grades and the rest of the school settling down nicely into learning routines. It has been quite a term!

Thank you so much for all your support and kind feedback for our effort and industry in keeping the school functioning as much as possible during Lockdown and beyond. I know staff have felt motivated by your kind words during a difficult period for everyone across the country.

However, we move forwards!!

### **House events**

This week we have had two lovely House quizzes in the Main Hall at break. They were won by Peppard in Key Stage 3 and Thames in Key Stage 4. The term also finished today with our final celebratory assemblies including House Point updates and awards. Our next events for the House system are a Spelling Bee and House Rounders.

### **Year 11**

I have had the pleasure of witnessing our Year 11s really excelling this week. They have been focusing on their non-examined work in subjects such as Dance, Drama, Art, Food and DT alongside their speaking pieces for English Language and their French orals. The students have worked with mature intensity knowing that they must give it their best shot. Judging by the high standard of creations in Food in particular we will be looking at some strong results next year.

### **Parents' Forum**

We held a Parents' Forum this week and a link to our presentation can be found [here](#). Our focus was on listening to parents regarding any issues emerging from lockdown and any positives we can retain from it. In addition, we also shared our plans how we are easing the students back into school and supporting their wellbeing and character development.



## Test and Trace

Your children should be coming home with another box of Covid home testing kits today. Please make sure you use them to ensure our community stays safe. If a student does get a positive test on or before Wednesday April 6th April please let us know so that we may investigate other school contacts and advise them on self-isolation.

## Ramadan

For those members of the MECE community who will be observing Ramadan, which is projected to begin on April 12<sup>th</sup>, I wish you 'Ramadan Kareem' and 'Ramadan Mubarak'.

## Next term

When we return after Easter (April 19th, 8.40am) we expect our students to be in full uniform and also with all of their Tools for Learning. Please click on the following links for **uniform** and **Tools for Learning** if you are unsure of our requirements. As shops re-open I hope the last few uniform issues can easily be resolved over the holidays. As we approach April 12th and hopefully a further relaxation of lockdown rules on May 17th we can get school back on the road to 'normal'. Certainly, we are now able once again to consider running non-residential school trips in the second half of the summer term linked to our curriculum which is exciting.

My staff member of the week for this week is Miss Shepherd. During our Parent Forum on Tuesday she was singled out by the parents of one of her tutees for her brilliant tutor time activities that happened consistently across Lockdown. We felt very proud to hear such lovely praise for one of our staff members.

Please click on our links for any Fab and Drab and Staff member of the Week to leave any feedback you may have.

Take care and stay safe and have a wonderful break.

Andy Hartley  
Headteacher

