



18 June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Covid Restrictions

I hope you have all had a good week and are staying positive despite the further extension of Covid restrictions. Monday night's announcement from Boris Johnson whilst frustrating was inevitable given the rising infection rates but this extension of the Covid restrictions has meant that we are having to re-organise several events between now and the end of term. This has had a particular effect on our Year 6 transition arrangements and Year 5 parent tours and I am so frustrated by this as I am desperate for parents to see just how focused and calm the school is. Sadly, it also means that we will be unable to have a parent audience for our MECE exhibition which included drama, music and dance performances.

Uniform

This heat of this week has definitely been a test of everyone's endurance and patience. However, I was delighted with the way our students have been flexible regarding their uniform. On Thursday all but 2 students came to school with their ties which was really pleasing and showed a great adherence to our high standards.

Year 10 exams

Year 10 have been completing their PPEs this week and it has been pleasing to see how maturely they have approached this occasion. Miss Bliss held a walkthrough with them all on Friday last week as a way of alleviating some of their anxiety but also as a way of being clear of our expectations. Based upon their excellent corporate behaviour during the week this rehearsal definitely paid off. Next week Year 10 will be completing three days of careers activities as way of looking forward beyond MECE and I think this will be a much-appreciated antidote to the pressure of this week's exams.

Attendance

Can I make a plea that there is a real focus on attendance in the last few weeks? I have noticed that since half-term attendance has not been quite as good as our 95%+ that we have been averaging across the year. Please be reminded that poor attendance could result in a letter from the attendance officer with a reminder of some of the official sanctions that can occur. More importantly, good attendance is so important for great academic performance and progress is almost impossible without it.

CESA

I had a chat with Suzanne Lovegrove, the Chair of CESA (our PTA), during Thursday and we both expressed our desperate frustration at the elongation of the Covid restrictions and their impact upon schools and our ability to hold functions and events. However, we are looking forward to a bumper 2021-2022! Like all PTAs, CESA can only operate successfully with volunteers and Suzanne is always looking for extra support. They are currently looking for anyone to volunteer but especially someone who would act as a Secretary. This is not hours and hours of work but will involve attending some meetings and a little administration. Please contact Suzanne through the CESA Facebook page if you would be willing to help. CESA is such a great support to the school and the new laser cutter in Design Technology, the goals

on the football courts and the bike racks are great examples of how the students benefit from CESA donations.

Nominations of the week


My staff member of the week this week is Miss Shepherd who has delivered a series of first-rate assemblies to the school regarding Pride month and its significance. A mention also goes to Mrs Allen, one of our TAs, who was parent nominated for her care and positivity in her work with the students and I heartily agree with this.

My student of the week is Eleanor C in Year 7. Miss Cheeseman writes *“another fantastic week, continuous hard work and focus, attending clubs, leading warm-ups in lesson time and bringing in items from China to share with her history class, who are learning about the Qing Dynasty! Eleanor always goes above and beyond!”* This positive attitude is absolutely spot on and will serve Eleanor well in the years to come.

Please click on the links below to give us feedback or nominate a member of staff.

Take care and have a great weekend.

Best wishes



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

