



09 July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Football!**

I hope you are all well and crossing your fingers and toes for Sunday evening's game! Having written about the leadership of the Danish Captain last week it was heartening to see the noble way he congratulated Raheem Sterling following his own goal. He definitely embodied the leadership and moral standards that we can all aspire to.

I have already been asked about a later start and closing for Monday if England win. As it stands, school will open at 8.40am on Monday morning but if things change, of course, we will let you know!

### **Covid**

As I communicated earlier this week Covid and its wider effects has definitely impacted the school in terms of staff in the last couple of weeks but I am so pleased in the way the staff have rallied round to cover lessons and ensure there has been little real disruption to the curriculum. We have been able to avoid Year group closures or even whole school closures that have happened in other parts of the area. I did have to use a supply agency this week for the first time since I began and it said much about our progress in terms of how well the students behaved for this member of staff who remarked upon the great changes to the school since her previous visit.

### **Covid rules**

As you may have seen the government communicated the end of bubbles and other relaxations of the Covid measures from July 19. There has also been some communication regarding testing in September. At present we will maintain the school day and other measures until the end of term as there are only two and a half days until we break up from the introduction of these measures. With regard to September there is a lot of debate in educational circles and many questions have been raised about school having to provide Lateral Flow Tests in September so I currently do not wish to confirm any arrangements. However, if it is a requirement that schools have to test students on their return to education in September we will implement a staggered start for different year groups on the day they return to school.

### **Attendance**

I have been disappointed with the drop off in attendance in the last two or three weeks. This has been for non Covid related matters. Can I remind parents that attendance is compulsory for all students and a failure to provide good reasons or for attendance falling below certain thresholds could lead to intervention from Oxfordshire County Council. We will always do our best to support students and families but attendance to school is a legal requirement and a school has a legal responsibility to uphold this.

### **Students and Staff of the Week**

I have four students of the week this week: Amelia P in Year 7, for fantastic attendance, continuous focus, hard work and resilience; Juan from Year 9 for being prepared to stay late in Maths and put the extra work in so he can make greater progress; Amy C in Year 10 for her excellent work in her PPEs and consistent high effort and finally Alejandro d G in Year 10 for his excellent behaviour and effort. All four students characterise the qualities needed to be a success in later life.

My staff member of the week is Mrs Blackall, our School Business Manager, who oversaw our two-yearly Health and Safety audit this week. It was a great success that recognised another strand of improvement that the school has undergone in the last two years.

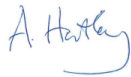
### **Fab and Drab**

Thank you for using the fab and drab e-mail links. In the last two weeks I have had two concerns regarding reports which I have raised with the Trust as I have some sympathy with this issue. Another e-mail concerned the cleanliness of the KS3 girls' toilets. I have raised this with the site team to ensure things are improved (although Covid has also hit our site team in the last fortnight!). Thank you for using this forum to highlight these matters with us.

Please click on the links below for any further feedback

Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes



Andy Hartley  
Headteacher

