



19 June 2020

### Dear Parent/Guardian

This week has seen the return of our Year 10 students. It has been great to see their happy smiling faces (although a little bleary eyed on arrival at 8.45!) and the feedback from them as they have left has been incredibly positive. The teaching staff have been able to give individualised support and have used this week and will continue next week to go through the lockdown lessons, assessing understanding and overcoming some of the most common misconceptions. We look forward to seeing them return next week.

The pop-up school is really growing now as we try to support those students who most need it along with a growing number of key worker students. It has been lovely to see them getting along with each other so well and I know the Year 7s have particularly enjoyed their lunchtimes in the woods. Ms Davies, the CEO of Maiden Erlegh Trust, was in school on Tuesday and remarked on how quiet, calm and orderly the school felt, which was reassuring.

We have been using some of the time that we have been closed to refresh some internal décor and displays and clear out some of the old equipment and resources no longer needed. We have also begun a refresh of the library which is a wonderful learning space and a great resource for the school to have. We look forward to being able to open this area in September and this will complement our whole school Reading and Literacy Strategy which also goes live then. With this in mind please look out for some Saturday morning site events across next year as we give some of our areas a bit of TLC and make the school a great learning environment once again.

The Senior Leadership Team spent two evenings this week reviewing the year and writing our plans for the forthcoming year. Whilst the meetings were long and lasted into the early evening on both occasions we left feeling buoyed, both by the progress of the school since Christmas but also by the prospect of the great times to come. There will be no great magical strategies next year, but an absolute focus on the content of lessons, the quality of teaching, the clear expectations of the students and the behaviour and support systems that underpin this. It is my fundamental belief that the daily diet of classroom experience is the fundamental key to our students' progress. Myself, the rest of the Senior Leadership Team and the whole of the teaching staff will be working with a laser sharp focus to ensure this occurs.

We would also like to hold a Parents' Forum on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July to give you some broad brush strokes regarding the next academic year. A separate communication will be sent to you regarding this. Please do participate as your feedback and input is very much valued.

Last night the government announced plans for a programme of catch up tuition. This is well received and I look forward to hearing more details of it and how we can best spend this money. As details emerge we'll know more however, I am resolute in using this scheme to allow students to catch up on any progress that has been lost. In the meantime, can I thank you for your continued work as parents in ensuring the work gets completed and that the work is ongoing and sustained. Keeping study habits regular and structured will be the best way of hitting the ground running when normal school returns. For those students who are really struggling at the moment we will be in touch with regard to some in school sessions before the holidays.

We are currently making plan for our Sports Day/Week for the week beginning July 13<sup>th</sup> along with a virtual Edgefest for that week also. We can't wait to see the performances, both sporting, musical and dramatic, albeit online, of our wonderful students. I'd heard much about Edgefest and can't wait for 2021 to see it in person. And as for Sports Day, it will be in houses for 2021 with everyone in colours, house parades before and lots of healthy competition to see who wins.

Please be reminded of our INSET day on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unfortunately, we will not be open for any provision on that day although we will rearrange the Year 10 Thursday group for a different day so that nobody misses out.

#### Here are our students of the week for this week!

#### Maths

- Megan B For rising to the challenge in Maths and producing exceptional work.
- Daisy U Has worked increasingly hard to produce top quality Maths work every week.
- Cassie U For an exceptional attitude to Maths.
- George B

#### Music

Abdul C

#### MFL

- Shanique O-H S
- Dillon M
- Abinaya S
- Daisy U
- Isabelle F P

#### **Dance**

- Dylan H
- Honor B

#### **Health and Social Care**

Jemma G

## PE

- Ben W
- Molly W
- Dillon B

# Drama

Jasper L - Excellent quality of work

## **Food Tech**

- Isabelle F P For completing additional challenge work, and producing high level theory work.
- Dillon B & Poppy L For an excellent start to their GCSE coursework, with the food styling project.
- Chloe G and Martina L-R For their home baking efforts.

## **Design +Technology**

- Alfie McM Consistent effort in tasks set for Design and Technology.
- Ainsley S Creative design work for Hoverboard project.
- Mia A great start to the GCSE Design and Technology work demonstrating detail and quality.
- Connor R Working consistently throughout to maintain progress through the Design Tech GCSE.

# Art, Craft & Design

- Dillon M Great effort in his Che Kumar cityscape.
- Delehn G Fantastic Hockney Landscape and continued effort in Art, Craft and Design.
- Grace B For an amazing start to her GCSE Photography.
- Matthew P For a strong start to GCSE Art, Craft and Design.

## **Science**

- Kyle Mcl
- Daniel H

## And our Staff members of the week are:

- Mrs Boys who is always so helpful and quick to respond. She is very calm, sensible and empathetic.
- Thank you to Ms Biddiss for the powerful BLM assembly I hope lots of pupils watched it.

Please use the <u>FAB</u> and <u>DRAB</u> links to pass on any feedback you may have to us as well as <u>staff member</u> of the <u>week</u> to let us know which staff member has gone above and beyond.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.

Best wishes

Andrew Hartley Headteacher