



Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope that you had a good Easter break and were able to enjoy some of the fabulous weather that we have had. However, it has just been so lovely to be back in school with students and staff this week. Again, the lovely weather has helped and especially with our outside breaks and lunches, with staff now very eager to volunteer for this duty. Below you will find my usual update but please note that a separate communication is coming from Ms Barnett, acting DHT, regarding the Assessments (ACM) for S4-6 which run from Monday 10 May to Monday 7 June inclusive. We held an assembly for these year groups this morning, this was recorded for anyone who was absent and an accompanying presentation has been sent to them all.

Lateral Flow Testing

Do please continue to encourage your son/daughter to bring their consent form and collect their Asymptomatic Tests. The more of us who engage with the testing, the safer our school community will be.

Timekeeping and Uniform

Generally, both of these are good but we are aware that standards have slipped a little for some students probably due to the large amounts of time out of school and the adjustment to normality again.

With regard to timekeeping, Key Adult starts each day at 8.30am promptly so students must be in class for this time. All students should arrive at school by 8.20am to ensure that they are not late and do not miss key information or assemblies which are shared during this slot. I am aware that a minority of students may have told their parents that Key Adult time 'does not matter'. Please be assured that this is not the case.

Uniform is expected every day unless your son/daughter has PE. Please see our website for a reminder of these items if necessary but note that a shirt and tie are expected with a black skirt or trousers. Black shoes are also expected. Students are allowed to wear jumpers in class due to the windows being open but again please try to ensure that these are black. As always, if you require support with uniform items please contact Mrs Yvonne McGregor by email or through our website as she can offer assistance.

Help and Support

We have tried to convey through our Key Adult presentation earlier this week and assembly today that taking care of our health and wellbeing continues to be vitally important. We are under no illusion that returning to school will have been easy and straightforward for everyone. We have reminded students of the key staff in school who can provide support including our Place2Be service. Please do encourage your son/daughter to speak to us if we can help in any way.

With regard to our senior students we have also been reminding them about the need to take some time off from studying and trying to incorporate a run, walk, mindfulness exercise etc. into their day because the next six weeks are going to be very demanding. We will be providing tips on study and how to balance this with 'down time' and would really appreciate you talking to them about this too.

Staffing

Just to let you know that Mr Ben Pilfold, our new Curriculum Leader of Maths and Numeracy will be starting with us on Monday. We will also be welcoming Mrs Claire Cooper as acting Curriculum Leader Technologies (Thursday) to our staff team next month. We very much look forward to welcoming them both to our staff team.

And lastly, I hope that you have a good weekend and are able to enjoy some of this continued good weather. I am not sure that it is going to continue into next week so hopefully you will have the chance to make the most of it.

Do take care, stay connected, and most importantly, stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hazel Kinnear', written in a cursive style.

Hazel Kinnear
Head Teacher