

Parents Forum Update – July 2020 (No Meeting held due to Covid 19 Restrictions)

Academic Year 19-20

Well....what a year it has been. We started the year with improved examination results in summer 19 but with more work to do, particularly in maths, where new leadership was already in place. During the first half of the year we saw extensive CPD for staff, iPads successfully being used in and out of the classroom for Year 7s, higher expectations for behaviour and changes to the rewards and sanctions procedures that reflected this, students demonstrated Resilience, Independence and Confidence in a range of different ways both in and out of the classroom; remembrance services, Christmas concert, public speaking, charity work, a raft of sporting success etc. etc. The school show was three weeks from production when COVID-19 closure hit.

In 48 hours we went from 'normal' school life to remote learning for the vast majority and school open for our VIPS (vulnerable and keyworker children only). We have remained open for the VIPS every day (except may half term) since, and have had healthy numbers of students through our doors. We have also provided free school meals vouchers for every family that is entitled, including through the holidays.

A very robust process has taken place to provide exam boards with our Centre assessed grades for each student in each subject, these have all been submitted and we await any adjustment from OFQUAL in August. Year 11 students have also been offered support with their transition to their next stage whether that be college, an apprenticeship or a job. It makes me very sad that Year 11 had to end so abruptly for these students but on the day of closure I promised them a prom and we will have a prom for them as soon as we are able to.

Early in June we launched some 'live' lessons for students on TEAMS, following CPD for staff and ensuring appropriate safeguarding at all times. This has led to more variety for students learning remotely. Where students don't have internet access or devices (or are sharing devices with other family members) we have provided paper copies of work delivered to students' homes.

From Monday 15th June we reopened to Y10 (each student in once a week) following all COVID guidance and from next week we will be widening this so that every student has the opportunity to come into school for a day ahead of the summer break. We believe this is so important for student wellbeing and will support transition back in September.

Whilst we have not been able to run our normal transition days and evenings for Year 6 families we have been in contact with them all, and on Monday 29th June launch our Transition zone on the website which includes a virtual tour of the school, frequently asked questions, some lesson videos to watch and join in with, uniform information etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have worked tirelessly to support the students during this very challenging period. They have juggled preparing online and offline work for students, delivering live lessons, face-to-face sessions with Year 10 and year 7-9, alongside finalizing Year 11 grades for submission - for many of

these this is alongside 'home-schooling' their own children or looking after relatives. It is also important to mention the support and caretaking staff who have worked so hard to make sure the site is COVID secure against a backdrop of changing guidance.

I am very privileged to work alongside such a fantastic group of staff, students and parents- I am very proud of our school.

Thank you for your commitment to Parent's Forum this year and your ongoing support- I know for some this will be your last year as your son's and daughter's leave us in year 11 this time, so those of you for whom this is the case thank you for your ongoing support of our school during the last few years.

At the time of writing we do not have confirmation from the Government about how we will return in September but as soon as we have this information we will share with parents.

I am very much looking forward to the day when we can safely welcome everyone back to school together, and I know the staff feel exactly the same!

Stay safe

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