

12th February 2021

School Update – February Half term

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, thank you for your continued support over the past six weeks. I recall the INSET day at the beginning of term. Staff were preparing for the return of Year 11 the following day and then the Government announced that night we would return to remote learning. I am sure it was a surprise to us all. Since then, we have tried to balance the educational needs of the students with their well-being and at the same time ensure that we support the staff's well-being for when we return to the classroom. I do appreciate that home learning is a challenge. It has been wonderful to see the high quality work our students have completed at home across all subjects.

I still hope we will return to the classrooms on Monday 8th March, however, I doubt this will be confirmed for some time. As a staff, we have already discussed plans for the return of students. We will update these plans when the final guidance from the Government is released.

Clearly there will be areas to address in all year groups. I intend to publish specific letters to the parents of Year 8, Year 10 and Year 11 students next week updating them with our plans for the forthcoming months. Our intention is to remain focused on the return of our students and to ensure that classroom learning is re-established as Our plan is to hold all summer events, even if we need to deliver them in a virtual format such as the Upper and Lower College Presentation evenings or the Year 6 Transition Evening.

Please be aware that the University of Southampton will not be able to roll out saliva testing as quickly as they had hoped. The start date for the programme has now been pushed back to March. I understand the Government is about to publish an update to schools over testing arrangements for when the students return. We will provide this information to you as soon as it is available.

I appreciate this is a challenging and worrying time for parents and for students, especially those in Years 10 and 11. We remain available to discuss your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher



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