

9 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Another good week.

We now have some disposable masks in school that have been distributed to tutors to give to students who forget to bring their own. It remains vitally important that we all work together to tackle the pandemic and it is still up to the students to take responsibility for wearing their masks. We have also bought discreet “pins” which Miss Wilson is giving out to help staff identify students who cannot wear masks and avoid drawing unnecessary attention to them. We have high levels of engagement but need your help to reinforce the vital importance of this.

We also continue to remind students of the other two parts of the government policy – hands and space. We would be very grateful if you could reinforce the importance of sanitising hands frequently, and maintaining space from the students in different year groups who should all be wearing a different coloured badge. Again, my colleagues are working really hard to reinforce this but it should now be the students who are self-regulating.

The news from Scotland is that they have cancelled their Scottish 5s, equivalent to our GCSEs, for 2021. While the status of the GCSEs in England has not changed this may be a precursor of what is to come in England. It is possible that mock exams for Year 11, and possibly even for current Year 10s, may become one of the key markers on which teachers may be asked to make their Centre Assessed Grades. We have mocks coming up for our Year 11 next month and, in the light of this, I cannot stress the importance of performing as well as the students can. It is fair to say that every year students reflect on the mocks and tell us that they didn’t revise because the exams were “not the real thing”. This year, more than any other year, is the occasion to give the mocks your best shot. The mocks are invaluable for the students who complete real papers in test conditions and can evaluate for themselves how secure their knowledge is. However, they also help us to know what the students don’t know and allow us to revise our programmes of study to address these gaps. This has never been more the case, given the school closure last academic year. Miss Gynn will be leading an assembly to Year 11 next week making the same case. I hope we can rely on your support in reinforcing this message.

As ever thank you for your continued support.

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