



30 April 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been a very busy couple of weeks since the Easter break so I thought I would write to update you on a number of matters. Since the Easter break, I have spent time visiting a number of classes across the departments of the school and I am pleased to report that lessons are purposeful and that learning is effective. It really is heartening and encouraging to see students so eager to learn and to make the most of the precious opportunities education offers them.

Year 11 final assessments

Following the very important year 11 PPE assessments before Easter, staff have been working hard to mark these and give feedback to the students so that they can improve further. This is important as year 11 students will sit their final summer assessments at the end of this month and this will offer the final opportunity for students to show evidence of the GCSE grade they are working at. I am very proud of the way our year 11 students have shown resilience and determination in the face of disruption through a large proportion of their key stage 4 career and I am sure that this will translate into some excellent results. The centre assessed grading process that we have in place is both rigorous and fair and will ensure that students are awarded the right grade, recognising their achievement in each subject. Today we have published the centre policy that has been submitted to JCQ. This explains, in some detail, all of the steps we will be taking to ensure a fair process and it can be found on our website [here](#). All centre policies will be reviewed by JCQ to check they meet regulations and requirements and throughout the grading process JCQ and the examination boards will be implementing a range of quality assurance measures to ensure that grades across schools are fair and consistent.

Mr Bandy will be writing to you with detailed information about the year 11 summer assessment plans and, indeed, the plans for saying farewell to year 11 towards the end of May.

Year 9 assessments

Our students in year 9 have also been very keen to show us what they have been learning and have approached their assessment week with great maturity and focus. After the unwelcome disruption caused by the pandemic to their first GCSE year, this assessment point will also allow teaching staff to identify learning and progress gaps that may have opened due to the lockdown and plan our response accordingly.

Junior maths challenge

Earlier this week, it was heartening to see 108 students in year 7 and 8 take part in this year's Junior Maths Challenge. These enthusiastic mathematicians stayed after the end of the school day to show off their Maths expertise in this national competition. Fingers crossed for some great results.

Thames Valley Police – Safety Arches

Yesterday we welcomed colleagues from Thames Valley Police to visit the school, bringing their safety arches. This was a routine part of our strategy to educate and inform students about the dangers of knife crime and other risky behaviour that, unfortunately, is prevalent in

our community. Upon arrival to school, students were selected at random to walk through the safety arches and to have a bag search. I am pleased and reassured to let you know that no prohibited items were found.

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh award scheme

We have been overwhelmed by the interest shown by students in year 9 who have signed up to participate in our first ever Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and we are hoping to run a condensed programme through the rest of the summer term. Watch this space for more exciting information on this great opportunity to support our student's wider personal development.

Attendance to school

As we continue to inch back to "normality", I am pleased to see that more students are attending school regularly, and this is so important – if students are not in school then they do not learn. For some families, coming back to school has been more tricky. Please can I encourage you to do all you can to encourage your child to attend school every day and to contact our fantastic attendance team if you feel that you need support in this.

Do enjoy the bank holiday weekend, and let's hope the sun shines! We look forward to seeing students back in school on Tuesday 4 May.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Johnson
Headteacher