

25 March 2021

Dear Parent

### **Spring Term 2020-21 Newsletter**

I am writing to you toward the end of what has been yet another strange term for everyone up and down the country. This school term started with an 8-week period of partial school closures, and I was once again proud of the incredible resilience shown by students, with Year 9 students engaging positively in the remote learning that was provided. The staff in school worked tirelessly to create lessons that were engaging, challenging and as normal as possible using Microsoft Teams and I would like to thank parents and students for the positive comments received regarding the provision.

Since returning to the classroom on Monday 8 March, attendance and behaviour within the year group has been positive and the work students have completed over the remote learning period will support them in making continued progress. Student attitudes to learning in the classroom are also vitally important if they are to continue this forward momentum. Every lesson will build towards students being as successful as possible in their GCSE subjects next year, so we cannot afford any dips in effort, behaviour or concentration. I want every student to end the year knowing they did their very best to achieve their potential as young people.

Over 95,000 points have been issued to the year group for meeting learning expectations and over 10,400 points have been awarded in recognition of students producing good/outstanding pieces of work. In addition, 35 individuals have been awarded R3's and work produced across a range of subjects has been celebrated and shared on Twitter.

### Duke of Edinburgh

Back in December we were thrilled to win a bid from D of E for over £5,000, enabling all students in Year 9 to enrol on to the Duke of Edinburgh Award, free of charge. Over the past few months students have shown outstanding commitment and perseverance by completing their chosen activities for the skills, volunteering and physical sections from home. We have been so impressed by the amazing evidence that students have been uploading and it has been great seeing them challenging themselves to try new things, develop their skills, become healthier and make a difference to the lives of others.

We are now over two thirds of the way through the Award and most students are now working hard to finish the remaining activities. On completion, students will be awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Certificate of Achievement. All students who successfully complete the Certificate of Achievement will be given the opportunity to complete the expedition section and receive the full Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. This involves a two day walking/camping expedition in the Peak District and is a fantastic experience.

## Uniform and Equipment

Most students in the year group are maintaining a very smart appearance and arrive at school in the correct uniform every day. I appreciate that it has not been as easy as usual to get replacement uniform, due to non-essential retail being closed. From Monday 12 April these shops will reopen and all students are expected to be in correct uniform when they return to school on Tuesday 20 April. Additionally, now the weather has become warmer, students have been reminded that non-uniform items (such as jumpers and hoodies) and outdoor coats should not be worn in classrooms. Students will be expected to take these off upon arrival if worn to school and any students not doing so should expect to have these items confiscated. I would appreciate it if you could reinforce this message with your child at home.

As with uniform – most students are arriving well equipped for learning each day. As a reminder, the basic equipment needed by all students includes: a pencil case, pens (black/blue and red), a fine whiteboard pen, a highlighter pen, a pencil, a 30cm ruler, a scientific calculator, a maths set, colouring pencils, felt tip pens, a glue stick, an eraser and a pencil sharpener. They will also require a reading book.

## Key Dates for Year 9

Date	Event
Thursday 1 April	End of Spring term for students
Friday 2 April	Bank Holiday – Good Friday
Monday 19 April	INSET Day
Tuesday 20 April	Start of Summer term (half-term 5/6)
Friday 28 May	End of term – start of half-term holiday
Monday 7 June	Start of half-term 6/6
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Form Tutor Parents Evening
Friday 23 July	End of school year

I look forward to writing to you again later this year to share some updates on how the year group are progressing and I look forward to celebrating the achievements of a highly successful group of students as they approach the end of Year 9. For now, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday.

Yours faithfully



Rachael Morton Riley  
**Head of Year**