



11 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19, Personal Development Day - Friday 12 March, Year 11 interviews and curriculum interventions, Year 9 options discussions, SEND issues, sixth form applications, House fundraising competition, World Book Day and EPlatform

As I write, our first week back is well underway and we have greeted all year groups back into the building from today. So far, this week has been a fine balancing act of a staggered return for all, student testing across the years and a return to bubble arrangements around the site. All of this whilst we host external contractors to replace our fencing and gates. It has also stretched us so far. As we enter round two of testing, it is clear that, up until the Easter break, that is just how it is going to be. More below:

Covid-19

This week, the DfE published guidance around 'LFT versus PCR' regulations. In this publication it quite clearly states that a confirmatory PCR test is not needed after a positive LFT. It goes further and states that any negative PCR test after a positive LFT will not override the original LFT result, meaning that students and the whole family would need to isolate for ten days if a positive LFT result was achieved.

In addition to the above, the national system for registering tests has crashed repeatedly since the middle of last week which has proved very frustrating. Nevertheless, we have ploughed on and made it work so I remain extremely grateful to the whole testing team for their dedication and hard graft. I know some notifications have not been received in a timely manner from the NHS as a result of this. Please bear with us as this is out of our control.

I still await the delivery of home tests for students at the Academy. I am aware that schools have started to receive their allocations across the county so hopefully it won't be long. I will keep you informed of how your child can access their home tests once they are received on site.

If any parents have any other concerns related to Covid-19 in school, please contact us at the Academy using the email address COVID@srpa.co.uk.

Personal Development Day – Friday 12 March

Tomorrow, we hold our fourth Personal Development Day of this academic year. This is timely so soon after lockdown and we want to focus heavily on our students' wellbeing after such a long time away from us. We also want to give them a huge welcome back into our community,

having significant time with their R2L tutors. All year groups will also have a session learning about what the Census is and why it is so important.

The core programme for Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 will involve sessions learning about:

- Emergency First Aid including CPR (Covid safe)
- Our SRPA Values and supporting our wider community
- Mental Health, Online Safety & Cyber Bullying – A musical performance by Denis Coleman (Support act for 'The Vamps')
- Positivity and Wellbeing – supporting the school community as it comes back together

In addition, Year 7 will learn about effective dental health, Year 8 will develop their digital resilience, Year 9 will learn about different routes into a career in teaching and Year 10 will look at how drugs and alcohol affect decision making.

Whilst Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 will follow a timetable involving:

- Emergency First Aid including CPR and using a defibrillator (Covid safe)
- Developing aspiration, motivation whilst supporting wellbeing
- Student choice enrichment activities focussed on health and wellbeing

Other sessions will involve, Year 11 developing their academic resilience and learning about National Citizen Service (NCS) opportunities, Year 12 will start their Employable Me programme whilst Year 13 will have some time to collaboratively work on their year book.

If this wasn't enough, Mrs Griffiths and the science department are celebrating British Science Week with some extra-curricular activities and challenges students can get involved in.

Finally regarding PD, Mr Griffiths has sent out our first combined bulletin for PD, Careers and Enrichment. We hope you received your Bulletin last Monday and have taken advantage of some of the great information and resources available. The next one will be sent on 22 March and they will be shared twice a half term from this point.

Year 11 interviews and curriculum interventions

We are in the process of beginning our latest round of interviews with Year 11. As a result of this, some youngsters will be invited to curriculum interventions in order to ensure that we have robust evidence for examination submission. Parents/carers may also receive a letter, as I have detailed previously, should we feel that your child may not make their target grade based on the current evidence available. This is intended to be a supportive measure to see all youngsters succeed.



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"This is a calm, happy and caring school."

Year 9 options discussions

Our options process is well underway and going well. The team have already begun options conversations with students and this will continue. This is to discuss options chosen where they just need confirming, as well as to consider where some choices may not fit the timetable and require further discussion. Mr Ward and his team will be in touch in due course as we move to finalise all options courses for Key Stage 4 from September.

SEND issues

Mr Adlington is available if any parents have any SEND concerns or worries as their children return to school. He can be contacted via SENDCO@srpa.co.uk should you wish to do so.

Sixth form applications

We continue to receive applications from internal and external students and our numbers are now looking really healthy into Year 12 from September. I have taken the decision to allow applications right up until the end of May in case this supports any youngsters still unsure over next steps. For further information, please contact the sixth form team via sixthform@srpa.co.uk.

House fundraising competition

We have been delighted by the response to the House charities so far and are looking forward to outstripping our targets from last year. If you would like to see our work or wish to donate the links to the pages are below:

- [Stuart](#)
- [Windsor](#)
- [Tudor](#)
- [York](#)
- [Lancaster](#)

World Book Day and EPlatform

It was lovely to see some really successful activities taking place to celebrate World Book Day. Mrs Ransome takes great pride in promoting all things literacy, including EPlatform, our virtual library. This continues beyond lockdown and is now part of our full curriculum offer.

In signing off my letter this week, I am going to be very honest and share that I have not found this week easy at all. In fact, it has tested me and my team at times and I haven't always been



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happy with how some things have worked out despite the best laid plans. Despite my exacting standards, I am reminded of my humanity, that I can't always get everything right. So many people fear failing or getting something wrong. However, embracing failures and learning from them makes us all better versions of ourselves. As Churchill once said, "Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm."

I remain infectiously enthusiastic about our Academy and I urge you to come on this new journey with me as we stride purposefully towards Easter. As we all return to our latest 'new normal' I encourage all of my staff and every single one of my student and parent body to remember that it is ok to make mistakes and learn from them. Good is good enough as we adapt to being back. My favourite quote of this week is from a young author called John Green: "What is the point of being alive if you don't at least try to do something remarkable?"

Quite. Let's go there together.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



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