



29 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19 including correct use of Covid-19 test kits, Year 11 leaving date, Assessment policy for summer examinations 2021 (Y11 and Y13) including JCQ student/parent guidance, medical data collection, travel update, donations sought

It feels like time is flying by as we approach the end of the second week back from Easter. The Academy has dusted off the cobwebs and we are back in full flow. This week has been the first week since last July when we haven't hosted external building contractors in some form which has felt odd. Please see my latest update below:

Covid-19 including correct use of Covid-19 test kits

By the end of this week, Covid-19 home test kits will be given out again to all students for use at home. I would appreciate it if you would continue to use the MS Forms reporting mechanism when letting us know your test results. The link is here: <https://forms.office.com/r/qEtQjPprX0>

I also wanted to ensure that you are aware of the correct way to use the LFT kits. If anyone is suffering symptoms of Covid-19 they **must not** take a lateral flow test. LFTs are only for identifying asymptomatic cases and, when taken incorrectly, may give a false reading. For anyone with symptoms, please book a PCR test.

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.

Year 11 leaving date

Year 11 students will be formally released from the Academy on Friday 28 May. This is to allow for internal quality assurance of our data sets before formal submission. From this date, compulsory attendance is not required.

However, this is not the end of our offer to Year 11 students. We will offer further learning experiences for those students who choose to continue and will also publish our sixth form induction arrangements shortly. In addition, we will be offering on site careers support and support for any students in Year 11 in need of it when formalising their next steps.

Assessment policy for summer examinations 2021 (Y11 and Y13) including JCQ student/parent guidance

These documents are attached with my letter today for parents of Year 11 and 13 students to consider. Our own assessment policy has been passed by the Governing Body and submitted to JCQ well before the deadline at the end of this week. We will shortly be publishing a separate **Examinations** section on our website under the **Our Curriculum** tab for easy parental access too.

Medical data collection

We are currently enhancing our medical facilities and our approach to administering medication in school. With this in mind, I would be grateful if you would complete the following MS Form for your child if they have a medical condition. I appreciate that we may have this information already but it would be extremely helpful to receive a new submission as our form has changed and the questions we are asking are different to in the past. Thank you for your understanding. The form can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/r/EYLDPmPxm5>

Travel update

I have spent part of this week sending legal letters to various parties in the ongoing Black Cat Travel situation. Due to the legal implications, I cannot expand further in this letter but, rest assured, I am not letting this go. In the meantime, students will be escorted on to Moor Lane at the end of the day when their bus arrives. All students should wait to be escorted rather than making their own way out of school. This greatly helps us to ensure students are safe and accounted for.

Donations sought

The Academy is engaged in a project called Circle of Life. As you are well aware, we have supported our community throughout the pandemic and see it as a vital opportunity to show that we are more than just a school. With this in mind, students are creating, preparing and delivering care packages to local care homes. If you are in a position to donate on the following list, it would be greatly appreciated:

- Cloth hankies for men
- Socks with rubber non-slip dots
- Sun hats
- Soft sweets
- Nail varnish
- Large print puzzle books



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- Colouring pens
- Hair brushes or combs
- Seed packets

All new and unused donations can be taken to the Hall where the House team will be happy to help.

This week, we embark on plans to renovate the garden at the back of the RP HUB. This garden is intended to be a quiet space for reflection for staff and students moving forwards. We ordered a free school support package from the Woodland Trust and have taken delivery of many new tree saplings which will offset our carbon footprint for generations to come. We have a small fencing project to complete, but then we will be allowing our Year 9 Green Team loose with supervision to begin planting trees and shrubs.

If anyone has any garden tools they would be willing to donate to support this initiative we would be very grateful. This is not an area where we are well stocked and the expense of these alone would deplete our entire cash pot received from the Coop Community Champions initiative.

I have written many times about how much our community means to us and, as a linguist and German specialist, I sign off this week with a quote from an excellent author, all the more so if you can access the text in German. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe once said “The world is so empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers and cities; but to know someone who thinks & feels with us, is close to us in spirit, this makes the earth for us an inhabited garden.”

I couldn't agree more.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



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