



26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As I write this message it occurs to me that in the UK, the last ‘normal’ school term was in 2019. Since then we have all endured disruption, disappointment and in some cases despair as we have grappled with the impact of covid-19 on our lives, but throughout the past twelve months I have been struck time and time again by the resilience that our pupils and staff have shown. They have refused to allow the virus to prevent them from moving forward in their lives. It has not stopped our teachers from teaching, it has not stopped our pupils from learning and it has not stopped our support staff from enabling these activities to take place. It has been both humbling and inspiring to witness the way in which pupils and staff have carried on in the face of adversity. The pandemic has certainly taken much away from us, but I believe that we will all take much away from this experience in the end and be the better for it.

This week, pupils in Years 12 to 14 returned and, in line with the Education Minister’s recent statement, our pupils in all year groups will return after the Easter break on Tuesday 13th April. April 12th will be a Baker Day so pupils will not be in School or working remotely although we will still be open to the children of key workers and others who have needed to attend throughout the lockdown.

It will be good to have children in the building once again and I ask that they remember the importance of adhering to all of the health measures that were in place before the end of last term. In addition, the Department of Education is now strongly advising the wearing of face coverings throughout the school day. I would urge pupils and staff to adhere to this as far as possible in the interests of everyone and I am also aware that some individuals may have sound reasons for not being able to do so.

Details of our current safety practices are available in the Parent E-Booklet on the website:

<https://sites.google.com/c2ken.net/glenlolaparentebooklet/home>

From 13th April, pupils in Years 12 to 14 will be taking further assessments which may contribute towards their final GCSE, AS and A-level grades. Therefore it is vital that those pupils take all reasonable steps to keep themselves safe during the Easter break so that they are not self-isolating during the important assessment period that is to come. This strategy in December enabled the vast majority of those pupils to take their mock examinations and I would urge your daughters to employ a similar sensible approach over the next two weeks while continuing to carry out lateral flow tests to ensure they are healthy to return to school.

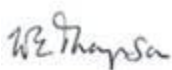
With regard to those forthcoming GCSE, AS and A-level assessments, pupils who experience circumstances at the time of an assessment which they believe to have had a negative impact on their performance should request consideration under Special Circumstances by contacting the relevant Head of Section (Y12: Mr Spence and Y13-14: Mr Harding).

In order to minimise the number of people in the building at any given time, from 13th April pupils in Years 13 and 14 may come into School in time for their first timetabled lesson of the day and leave after the end of their last, signing out as they go. Pupils who come into school after normal registration must be sure to register on those days in Google Classroom by 9:10am to ensure that they are marked present. Pupils wishing to follow their normal full timetables, attending school from 9:10am to 3:30pm may still do so and the study areas will be available as usual.

With the vaccination programme rolling out at speed and the arrival of longer days, there is a palpable sense that we are beginning to catch sight of the end of a long dark road.

As always, I am grateful to you for your ongoing support.
Take care

WE Thompson
Headmaster



Mr W E Thompson
Headmaster



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