

10th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are well and embracing the renewed optimism in the air as we move into warmer weather and, as a community and country, continue to make progress so that we can take steps towards some sort of normality in the not too distant future.

Lateral Flow Testing Continues

As part of this on-going effort to reduce the impact of the virus on our lives, we will be distributing more Lateral Flow tests to your child. Please continue to encourage them to take a test twice weekly at home and to register the outcome. It is only by knowing where the virus is present that we can take steps to keep it out of the Academy community and eliminate the disruption that it can cause.

As before, it is vital that if your child tests positive or starts to display symptoms of the virus that you keep them at home for 10 days and arrange a PCR test. Please also inform the Academy as soon as possible so that we can track and trace contacts.

Exam Year Groups

Students in Year 11, Year 12 Level 2, Year 13 and the International Group who would normally be taking examinations at this time are due to complete their lessons and assessments by Friday 28th May. There will be no further timetabled lessons after this date. At present there is no specific guidance from the Department for Education about expectations for these students for June but we are planning a range of activities, some virtual, some face to face, to support these students as they move onto their next phase of education. Please look out for communications from your child's Head of Year regarding these.

We are also hoping to be able to plan a celebratory event for each of these year groups to take place by the end of June if the next phase of restriction easing permits this.

Important Dates

A reminder that this coming **Friday, 14th May 2021**, is an INSET day. Students should not attend the Academy. The only exception to this is for students who will be sitting a community language A Level or GCSE exam and who have been notified of this. These students will attend just for the exam and will then be dismissed immediately afterwards.

During this day, staff will be continuing the very detailed process of arriving at Evidence Informed Grades (EIGs) for each exam student in readiness for these to be submitted to the exam boards next month.

Monday 7th June 2021 will be a further INSET day during which the EIG process will continue. Again, students should not attend the Academy on this day.

Uniform

Thank you for your support to ensure all students are in the correct uniform or abiding by the Sixth Form dress code. If you need to purchase uniform, please visit the Academy website where you can arrange a click and collect order.

We are expecting further information from the Department for Education this week regarding next steps in the easing of restrictions and how these will impact our community. We will, of course, keep you fully informed of any changes to current Covid-related protocols at the Academy.

In the meantime, my best wishes to you and your family.



Wanda Golinska
Headteacher



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