



22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As ever I trust that you are all keeping well. I would like to begin by extending a huge thank you for the support you are providing at home with on-line learning whilst juggling all your other commitments. It's far from ideal at the moment, but together I am confident we can make lockdown as good as it can be.

This week saw our first on-line Parents Evening which seemed to go really well and many thanks for the feedback we have received. Next up is Year 9 Appleton and information will be sent out next week. Once the cycle of Parents Evenings has been completed we will be evaluating the process to see whether, post lockdown, there are opportunities to use this method of communication.

During lockdown, it's important to us that we try to keep things as normal as possible whilst recognising the need to innovate to do so. For example, the 27<sup>th</sup> January next week marks Holocaust Memorial Day. There will be an on-line assembly about this next week. But we have also sourced an on-line video that acts as an educational tour of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. Mr Roberts is writing out separately with further guidance about this and I am really confident that this will only enhance our students' understanding of this challenging phase of history.

You may recall from last week's letter that we are encouraging students to undertake and where possible, share their Personal Challenges. To receive an update from Mr Roberts, please click here: <https://youtu.be/leHSAP-nays>

In terms of Government updates, we know a few more things. For example, we will be given two weeks' notice before schools open. Also, the extensive testing system which was seen as a cornerstone of managing asymptomatic close contacts in school, has been paused. However, we remain on standby and will be able to resume testing immediately it is required. In terms of GCSEs, a consultation has opened and if you would like to get a sense of Government thinking please [click here](#). Finally, and as ever, stay safe and have as relaxing a weekend as you can.

Regards

Tim Long, Principal

