



Friday 23rd July 2021

Dear Parents, carers and students,

I trust that you are all well and thank you again for your on-going support and patience. On Wednesday night we had our Y11 Prom at Chester Racecourse and it was a reminder of how great it will be to return to some normality in September!

Over the summer we will be stepping up our refurbishment programme of classrooms and corridors so that students return to as good a learning environment as we can provide. We will also be working with our contractors on the Expansion Project that will be transformational for the school. The project remains on schedule but as anyone in the building and construction trade will tell you, Covid times are both hard times, expensive times and unpredictable times!

When we come back in September we have other things to look forward to including we hope, no more bubbles, no more holding zones and no staggered starts and finishes. More importantly we hope to return with a different approach to self-isolation of close contacts and the wearing of facemasks.

However, as pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, the DfE have instructed that all secondary school pupils should receive two on-site lateral flow device COVID tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return to school in the autumn term. We plan to carry out testing during the first week back from Tuesday 7th September in a similar format to how we did this in March on our return from Lockdown Two. The intention is that these take place during the school day and we will write to you all in August with full details.

When we do come back in September we have also targeted a number of other things. The first is around addressing gaps in learning that might have developed because of lockdown and self-isolation. I can assure you that considerable work has been undertaken and I am confident that we will make significant progress in these areas come September.

It is also the case that we need to remind everyone of what it is like to be in a fully functional school environment, underpinned as ever by the values of respect, understanding and tolerance. With this in mind we think it is timely to revisit some key concepts linked to Equality and Diversity and we will be rolling out a yearlong programme with governors, staff and students where we can better understand how we can collectively pull together in regards to these matters.

So now, it just remains for me to thank you all for your amazing support, encouragement and patience in what has been a very challenging year. But it is a year that has also brought out the best in so many people, in particular our hardworking, smiling and cheerful students. Have a great summer!

Regards,

Tim Long

