

28th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. Time seems to be flying by and it is hard to believe that it is only four weeks until the end of term and the summer holidays! I just wanted to take the opportunity to provide some updates and reminders.

Covid-19 Track and Trace

Whilst it is obviously good news that the roll out of vaccinations to adults has been proceeding at a good pace, we are certainly not over the negative impact that individual positive cases can have on other students or staff being asked to self-isolate. In recent weeks some Dorset schools have been very badly affected. Although we have been relatively lucky this term, unfortunately, two confirmed positive cases in Year 9 at Budmouth have resulted in us needing to operate 'track and trace' procedures and ask those students who have been identified as being close contacts, to self-isolate. A reminder that when these decisions are made they are not done in isolation, but in consultation with Public Health England.

Last Day of Term

Friday 23rd July is the last day of term for all students. Please note that we will finish at 12.30pm on the final day. Lunch arrangements will not be affected.

Sports Day – 30th June

We are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather this Wednesday when we hope to be holding our first Sports Day for two years! Thank you to Mr De La Haye and the Sports Team for arranging the programme. It is the first time that the cup will be presented to either Attenborough, Hawking, Shelley or Turing. The students have been advised that they are allowed to come to school in their sports kit on Wednesday. Good luck to all those who will be taking part!

Prize Giving events

Although we are not able to hold our 'Junior Prize Giving' event with parents invited this year, we will be going ahead with presenting awards to our students. Mr Cavill has sent invitations to the students who are prize winners and I am looking forward to making the presentations on:

- Tuesday 29th June at 10.30am for Year 7
- Thursday 1st July at 12.30pm for Year 9
- Friday 2nd July at 10.30am for Year 8

Prom Dates

We have been communicating with the students in Year 11 2020, Year 11 2021 and Year 13 about our efforts to reschedule the Proms which had to be postponed when the government announced that we would not be moving to 'Step 3' of the restrictions easing on Monday 21st June. We are all keeping our fingers crossed that the events will now be able to take place during the final week of term:

- Wednesday 21st July –Year 11 Class of 2021.
- Thursday 22nd July –Year 11 Class of 2020.
- Friday 23rd July – 6th Form Ball.

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Fizzy Drinks/Energy Drinks

A reminder that students are not permitted to bring fizzy drinks, including energy drinks, into school. If these are seen, they will be confiscated by staff. Our PSHE Programme does seek to educate students about the impact that excessive levels of sugar can have on their health in the long term. Obviously, our powers are limited in monitoring this, but it can sometimes be concerning to see students coming out of the Co-op in the morning carrying multi packs of energy drinks, chocolate bars, crisps and sweets.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Student Leadership

Even though we still have constraints to work within, it is brilliant to have much of our extra-curricular programme back in place. Welcoming visiting netball teams and watching Duke of Edinburgh participants going out on expedition have been welcome signs of our students getting back to some sense of normality. Activities such as this can be an integral part of the portfolio of evidence that our students can use to gain accreditation for the Aspirations Pixl Edge Award. Successive lockdowns have made it much harder for our students to make progress with this, so we were absolutely delighted when our first two students were able to complete the first level (Apprentice) of this national programme. Hannah Cooke and Isabelle Woodfield were presented with certificates by Steve and Paula Kenning and must be congratulated for their commitment. They are both very busy students who were able to draw on a lot of activities out of school, as well as in school, when developing their evidence base. In September 2021, we will be joined by Mr David who will be ensuring that many more students follow this programme and gain accreditation.

Uniform

A further reminder will be included in the final letter at the end of term, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents who have responded positively to individual requests from Heads of School to amend or replace incorrect items of uniform. A not inconsiderable number of black trainers have been replaced with black school shoes and trousers that are not of full length have also been replaced. With regards to skirts, we have received some feedback from parents that it is not always easy to find ones that meet the requirements of our Uniform Policy. Although the majority of people have not had the same problem, our supplier (Brigade) has placed two skirts on their website which definitely meet the requirements. After we consulted with parents about uniform in Spring/Summer 2019, we decided to allow parents/students the chance to choose their own skirts and we still favour this approach. However, to continue with this more flexible approach we do need the support of everyone.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert