

20 May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope that all remains well with you and your families during this difficult time and that you continue to feel supported by the College.

Today I wanted to send you a short letter to update you on a couple of things as we come towards the week that would normally be half term.

### Tutor Contact

I hope that you will understand the need for the College to know that all the students under our care are safe and well during this long period of absence from College. As part of our ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of all our students I have asked that tutors contact all the students in their tutor group. I have asked them to do this so that the students know that we are here for their pastoral needs and we know that they are all safe and well. We have tried to make this as unobtrusive as possible, whilst at the same time giving the College and the MAT, the reassurance that all is well with each of them. To this end, tutors are regularly sending out a tutor quiz for completion. **Please could you encourage your child to complete the quiz and return it to tutors and of course to contact their tutors if they wish to.** I know from my own experience with my children that they don't necessarily tell you that this communication has taken place, but I was very pleased to hear them discussing the quiz together and was incredibly reassured that their tutors had taken the time to contact them. Where tutees are not responding to the quiz I have asked that tutors call home, to make contact. Often this will display on the phone as a withheld number - I know that some people are reluctant to answer the phone when this is the case however, it would help us enormously if you could answer. I do thank you for your understanding in this matter. **The next quiz will be sent to your child this week by their tutors.**

### Year 10 and Year 12

I said in the letter that I sent out last Friday, that we have started our planning to support the government's goal to offer face to face support for our Year 10 and 12 students. I want to reassure you that our first priority is to ensure the safety of all the students and staff. With this in mind we are determined to progress cautiously, ensuring that all health and safety checks and risk assessments have been completed and adhered to. We are currently gathering information regarding students' current status with regards to the virus. If you are the parent or carer of a Year 10 or 12 student and have not been able to complete the survey yet, could I ask you to find time to do so. A link has been sent out again today with an extended deadline. Later in the week we will send out another survey to ascertain the number of students who would wish to take advantage of any provision we do offer. It is very important that we manage this move to face to face support in such a way as to ensure the safety of all involved. It is therefore very unlikely that we will be in a position to offer any face to face support to students at the start of the new half term. I will keep you informed as planning proceeds.

## Year 11 and Year 13

My thoughts are very much with Year 11 and 13 students who would be more than a week into their public exams by now in normal circumstances. I can only imagine the mixed emotions that they are going through at this time. I know that many, when I spoke to them before the lockdown, felt robbed of the opportunity to show their ability in the final exam. A level and GCSE grades will be released on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August respectively, in the meantime Mr Griffiths is working with Heads of Faculty and Class Teachers to ensure that the information we are passing on is robust and meets the requirements of the exam boards.

Normally this week we would have the Year 11 assembly and would be looking forward to a time when the exams were over and we would be celebrating at the Year 11 and 13 Balls. Sadly, that is not to be this year. It is important to me that you know that the College is still here for any Year 11 or Year 13 students that need our support in any way. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Finally, can I say **THANK YOU** to all the students who have emailed me over the last few weeks. I hope that I have responded to all of them. I really enjoy reading the things that they have been up to and, amid all other things that need to be dealt with each and every day, it really does make my day to hear what the students are up to. Finding out how they are getting on, the work they have done and the new hobbies and interests they have taken up. There are some who have said they are happy for us to share the things they have done on a letter but that is for another time. I am in College most days and it is obviously not the same without them all. I think we all miss that daily interaction with one another and I really do look forward to the day we can all be back together again.

I will be in touch in the very near future, in the meantime please look after yourselves and stay safe.

All my best wishes,



**Derrick Brett**  
Principal