



10<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Year 10 Parents and Carers,

### **Coronavirus Update 45**

It was in an optimistic spirit that I wrote to you on 21<sup>st</sup> June with an outline of the way ahead for members of Year 10. Some of those hopes have since become reality, most notably the end of year assessments, which have proved to be a very useful stocktaking. The holiday assignments which are being set are a first response to the needs we have identified. We are also able to move ahead with our offer of places at a summer school tailored to meet the needs of its Year 10 participants.

But on Friday the virus came back to bite us. Three members of the year tested positive for Covid 19 and I was obliged to send no fewer than 91 students home for a period of self-isolation. That period will end on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Contact with the teaching staff will continue, using the system that should now be all too familiar. Work will be set and questions can be raised by email. A report on the year will, as planned, follow before term ends on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July will have a different shape for all members of Year 10. We are calling it Aspirations Day and devoting it to life beyond the end of Year 11. A range of speakers and other sources of information will aim to focus individual ideas, stimulate thought and provide practical advice. On the following day, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, a substantial group from Year 10 have booked to visit Go Ape. Our current intention is for that plan to go ahead.

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July is the final day of the school year. We shall close at 12.50pm.

I would like to be able to give you the latest news about the GCSEs in 2022. The Government has promised a statement before the end of term and everyone concerned, be they candidates, teachers or parents, is eager to learn the details. As soon we receive some definite news I shall report it to you.

We all need to be alert to the possibility of further cases of Covid 19 among our students and among Year 10 in particular. Please help us to limit this outbreak by responding immediately to any of its classic symptoms.

Finally, for anyone still thinking about the Year 10 Summer School, the deadline to register an interest in all or part of it is 9pm this coming Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July.

With my good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Waters