

April 2021

Hi Second Year students

I hope you enjoyed a good break over the Easter period. It's great to see the impact of the vaccination programme and I'm hoping we'll lose less days to isolation in this final half term.

This email is to update on assessments, talk you through how the next half term will operate and explain what the end of your time with us will look like.

While things are clearly improving, the Government have set the review date for the wearing of facemasks on the 17th May – so until that date we will have to continue as we did before Easter with masks on all morning. To paraphrase line 237 in *Antigone*, this is a message you don't want to hear and I don't want to give – but to use a more recent expression 'it is what it is', so we'll simply deal with it together.

After Easter

We will continue with the two long lessons in the mornings, with physical support sessions being onsite in the afternoons. Students with a study period P2 who have support in the afternoon will still be able to book into the library. The library is now available every afternoon and all day on Fridays for YR2 students to book in for private study. Lectures will continue in your tutorial session - we will not restart lecture lunches – the Mill Café is open for take away food every break and lunchtime.

We will continue with remote check-in notices and enrichment will not be required for any YR2 students as we focus on the final assessments in this last half term. I will be writing again to you and your parents to confirm in writing the evidence base that will be used in producing your TAGs – there will be no surprises and as I've said before outstanding performance in the May assessments can allow us to give an excellent grade even if the performance up to this point has not been at that level.

The end of College

Students with a keen eye for the timings of their assessments will have realised that all work will be completed by half term. Once you have completed your final assessments in each of your courses (unless you have missing work because of isolating still to do) you will have finished that course and no longer need to attend. Your teachers will make it very clear to you when you are needed and when you are released in each subject.

I don't want your time with us to finish with a staggered end to your last lessons and leaving the College in dribs and drabs – but we also can't plan to end with a big celebration in May, as many restrictions could still be in place. So here's the plan – we will gather together on the 8th and 9th July for our final sessions together and hopefully are able to celebrate two strange but wonderful years.

We are a College - not a school, we educate young adults – not children - and on that basis I do not believe in 'reward trips' – end of year events open to all students with good behaviour records... However, you guys have gone through a ton of stuff and we'd like to organise a trip on the 8th July – totally optional and almost certainly to Alton Towers – if a few friendship groups would like a day out together then our organising and getting educational rate tickets will be a way of us acknowledging what you've gone through - and in so many cases not just survived but thrived! So more details to follow, but if you are a YR2 student on roll with us then you're welcome to go on this optional trip.



That's brings us to the 9th July – no doubt a few of you will still have books to hand in and I'm sure many of you will want to see teachers and staff, take some selfies and say goodbyes. So we're going to close the site to all other groups of students on this day and invite all of you to come back for an afternoon BBQ, a bit of music and plenty of time to take photos and say goodbyes.

We will write again this half term to give you details of our first ever A level results day – for now can I just ask you to make sure you have kept the new date of Tuesday 10th August free to receive your results.

Many thanks

Mark Rothery

Principal

