

May 2021

Hi All

For those planning to celebrate later this week I wish you all Eid Mubarak. For those not planning to celebrate may I remind you that the College is closed on Thursday to all staff and students.

On Monday the Government announced the latest elements in the roadmap to getting back to normal life. One change that affects us that that from Monday 17th May students will no longer need to wear facemasks on campus. This is great news and very welcome from the twin viewpoints of teaching and enabling students to socialise.

For now, we will remain a no touching site – we know hugs within houses with families and friends are being allowed again. I'm sorry to say on our campus hugging and handshaking will still not be permitted (yet – please watch this space).

The link to the latest Government advice is here

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/984846/FINAL_Face_coverings_in_education_guidance.pdf

'From 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools and colleges. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms.'

I'm also delighted to say we can also now allow first year students to book into the library to remain on site during the afternoons until 4:00PM for socially distanced private study.

These changes add to the opening up of physical enrichment and the healthy Duke of Edinburgh group – so many things are starting to move in the right direction.

I'll finish with a challenge for families. Our final charity day of the year will be on the 27th May (the same day as our compulsory 'Big Meal Event') – currently students are voting to decide which international charity we will support. On the 27th we'll do a range of different fundraising ideas. Parents – a student has asked me if we can host a virtual walk a mile challenge in the afternoon linked to a just giving account – they have thrown down the gauntlet for families to equal or surpass the amount students raise. Are you all ready for a lap of Bowling Park?

Thanks

Mark Rothery

