



## *Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College*

Ballantyne Road, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 8SN  
Telephone: 01252 514194 Fax: 01252 546430  
Email: [adminoffice@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk)

Community: 01252 401080 or 01252 401087

Headteacher: Mrs S Chinnappa BSc M.Ed NPQH

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### Autumn Newsletter – Half Term 1

23rd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to give you an update on how well term has started. Our students have really enjoyed coming back into school and it has been wonderful to see so many happy smiling faces first thing in the morning. Attendance levels have been very good with an average of nearly 95%.

This term we have welcomed 6 new students into the Primary Department, 30 into the Secondary Department and 1 into Cody Hill. We have also welcomed 13 new members of staff. Our first 2 inset days were very successful in implementing our Covid-19 plans and getting ready for the return of our students into a new and exciting year.

#### **School Uniform**

The students have come back looking very smart and ready for work. As you will be aware the Covid-19 crisis has meant that we have had to update our Risk Assessment and from this week students who have PE in the day have been requested to come to school in their kit and remain in it for the rest of the day. I understand that it may be hard to keep a supply of clean kit for those of you who have a KS4 student who is engaging in PE more than twice a week. For this reason, if your child has PE 3 times a week we are happy to provide you with one extra PE top and if they are in PE 4 times a week we are happy to provide an extra two PE tops. Please contact your child's tutor in the first instance if you wish to take us up on this offer, along with the size of tops you will need. These will need to be ordered if we do not have them in stock, and so I ask you to be patient until they arrive. As the weather gets increasingly cooler, it would be good if students wore jogging bottoms, but hoodies are not allowed in school. A school sweatshirt is available. As a Covid-19 precaution it is advised that school clothes are washed as often as possible. Our Risk Assessment is available on the school website.

## **2020 Examination Results**

I am delighted to report to you some very pleasing results for last year's Year 11 students. Two students gained 6 or more GCSEs at grades 4-9 including English Literature, English Language, Combined Science and Maths. Twenty-five students gained between 1 and 9 GCSE passes. We are very proud of their achievements and hard work. This was as usual supported by fantastic teacher input and has given Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College a great set of results yet again.

## **After School Clubs**

We are hoping to be able to start after school clubs following the October half-term, Covid-19 permitting. We will send you an update on this when it becomes possible for us to plan for their re-start. We understand and recognise the value of these experiences and are keen to offer them as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide transport home when clubs finish at 4pm. As you will be aware educational funding, in real terms, is reducing and this is an area where cuts have had to be made.

## **Term Topics**

The areas your children will be studying throughout the year are on the school website. These will inform you of what your child will be studying and some links to sites they can use to support their learning.

## **On-Line Learning Platform**

We are currently in the process of subscribing to SAM Learning, which is a virtual learning environment. You will soon receive login details for your child to be able to access this learning platform. SAM Learning is engaging and fun to use. It can cater for students aged 4 – 16 years and it is hoped that some of our students may choose to access this out of school hours, or if needing to self-isolate. Additional house points can be earned for work undertaken at home as well as the opportunity to earn extra points and certificates and of course impact positively on learning!

## **EHCP Annual Reviews and Parents Evenings**

As you are aware the current health crisis has proven to be very challenging for us with regards to holding EHCP reviews and parent's evenings. We have had to make the decision to offer EHCP review meetings via Zoom, Teams or by telephone. Your child's tutor will be in touch to organise these in due course. The same is true of parent's evenings. Individual telephone or Zoom/Teams appointments will be offered by tutors to update you on your child's progress. Depending upon the timing of your child's Annual Review, it may be that both meetings are covered in the same appointment. Please be mindful that this is not our preferred way of working, and it is always a pleasure to see you and meet with you to share the success of your child but we have to keep you, our students and our staff as safe as we can and this is the only way that we can do this at the moment.

### **Visiting Therapists**

We are continuing to offer our students interventions from visiting therapists such as Physiotherapy and Speech and Language. Professional visitors are welcome to the school site as long as they adhere to our Covid-19 Risk Assessment guidelines.

### **Parents accessing school site**

We have had to take the decision not to allow parents into the school building unless they have an appointment with a member of staff. Parents coming into school should follow our Covid-19 secure guidelines outlined in our Risk assessment. Parents are reminded to ensure that they socially distance themselves from other parents whilst dropping off and picking up from school. Only one parent should attend where possible.

### **School meals**

We have been evaluating the quality and quantity of food available to our students at lunch time. As a result of this review process we have made some changes to our menu and portion sizes. Students have given positive feedback regarding these changes. We are proposing a break-time offer of freshly baked items in addition to the lunch-time menu. I would like to thank those of you who have taken part in the on-line survey about this. As a result, we will be making food available for purchase at break-time and will be extending our on-line payments system to include lunches, hopefully from half-term. If you would like to participate in this very short survey to help us improve our food offer please copy the following link into your browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RRBHDTTP>

### **Free School Meal Entitlement**

If you have not already done so, please apply for your Free School Meal entitlement. If you have already applied online, you do not have to do so again.

New applicants need to apply online at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/caterers/hc3s-freeschoolmeals.htm>. It is important that everyone who is entitled to this provision applies as school funding is based on these applications. We use additional funding to provide one to one support, withdrawal support and to supplement trips and extra-curricular activities. For more information on how Student Premium funds are spent please see the school website.

### **Mobile Phones/Electronic Devices**

I would just like to remind you that students should not have mobile phones during the school day. If they do bring them to school, they must hand them in on arrival at the start of the school day. There is no reason why children need phones in school and if you need to contact them in an emergency please call the school office.

Please only let your child bring in one device as storing and keeping multiple items is becoming more and more difficult. Unfortunately, we are not able to store bulky headphones.

### **School Payments**

Please note money can be paid to school in the following ways:

- Card payments in person or over the phone
- On-line payments

- Cash
- Cheques

All new students will receive a registration letter shortly to enable them to use Tucasi for making payments. If you have not yet registered to make payments online, please contact the school office.

### **Student Absence Reporting**

If your child is too sick to come to school or will be attending a medical appointment, please let the school know immediately. You can do this by:

- Ringing the school on 01252 514194 opt 1
- Emailing [absence@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk](mailto:absence@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk)

**Please remember not to send your child into school if they are suffering from one or more of the following symptoms:**

- A high temperature (37.8 or above)
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of taste or smell

If your child is suffering any of these symptoms, your child should isolate for 10 days and the rest of your household for 14 days or until a test has been undertaken and is proven to be negative. We thank you in advance for your understanding with this.

### **Medical Needs Policy/Privacy Notices**

The school has a statutory obligation to have a 'Medical Needs Policy'. A copy of this can be found on the school website.

Please also ensure that you read the Privacy Notices on the website as this will detail how we hold student information.

### **School Arrival**

Please try to make sure your youngsters do not arrive in school too early in the mornings. School transport should not drop children off before 8.40am as all staff are in the morning briefing. Staff will be on duty to welcome and supervise and take responsibility for children from 8.40am. Please may I remind all parents picking up children that parking at the far end of school is for the Primary unit only and taxis. Parents picking up their secondary aged children from school should do so by parking in the car park on the left hand side inside the main entrance.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs S Chinnappa  
Headteacher

**Dates for the Diary this Half Term**

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Remaining Flu Vaccinations
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term
<b>Inset days for Autumn Half term 2</b>	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Inset Day – School closed