



## **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

10<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **General Update – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

I hope that you managed to have a decent break over half term. We are continuing with our more stringent COVID-19 control measures and these have been in place now for nearly five weeks. In order to keep our school as safe as possible we are limiting the number of visits to school to visiting professionals only. This is to ensure that our students receive the support that they need from the Speech and Language Therapy service, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy teams. We have had to close the school completely to community lettings until after Christmas.

Thank you again for ensuring that our students are aware of the importance of following in-school COVID-19 strategies. I am happy to report that most students who were wearing face masks before half term are continuing to do so. There are a few older students who seem to be reluctant this half term in following this instruction, so can I please ask you to ensure that your children have access to an appropriate face covering if they are able to wear one and that they remember to bring them into school.

Whilst COVID-19 is preventing us from being able to carry on with our regular after school programme, it is important to note that we are trying to keep things in school as normal as possible. To this end we will be remembering Armistice Day on Wednesday at 11am, where students will have the opportunity to observe a minute's silence and make some poppies with which to create a temporary memorial wall within school. This event would normally be observed during an assembly, but sadly this cannot be the case this year.

Our new electronic sign-in system will soon be installed at the front of school for staff and visitors and this will enhance our safeguarding procedures in school. The school was steam cleaned again over half term and will be done again during the Christmas break. With additional hand sanitisers and careful management of our work spaces, we are doing what we can to keep students and staff as safe as possible.

There have been some cases of the inappropriate use of social media amongst some of our students outside of school. To this end our E-Safety Officer will be delivering some timely training for students, highlighting how to keep themselves safe when using various social media platforms. If there is something that you wish to know more about with regards to young people and E-Safety in the home, please get in touch with the school and we would be happy to try and help.

On Friday we will be participating in raising money for Children in Need with a 'Wear Something Yellow to School' day. Students should wear something yellow in colour and bring in £1. Monies will be collected in tutor time that morning.

Sadly, our intended Duke of Edinburgh walks and our after school clubs have had to be postponed again, but we will let you know once we are sure that it is safe to reinstate these. We are however, planning a fun and interesting Christmas programme leading up to the festive season including a Christmas lunch for students and other themed activities.

Over the next three weeks, tutors will be contacting parents to discuss the progress of all of our students. These calls are going to be made in place of parents evening and if your child is due an Annual Review of their EHCP, this will happen as part of that process. I need to mention that the Annual Review forms have changed this year, and we are trying to complete them as best we can. We are under some pressure to complete year 11 Annual Reviews well before Christmas, and these have been delayed due to the COVID-19 lockdown earlier this year. It is important to note that the Year 11 Annual Reviews are transitional reviews, needing to celebrate a student's time here at Samuel Cody. They need to reflect changes with regards to the original EHCP so that these can be updated and changed for entry into college. Extracts from the original EHCP will thus be included in the Annual Review forms so that they can be amended if needed. As EHCP's are valid until students reach 25 years, it is important that these developments and changes in need are reflected in the Year 11 Annual Review so that more up to date EHCP's can be issued and suitable post-16 placements can be found with the right level of support. No Annual Review will be forwarded to SEN until parents are happy with their content.

May I just remind you that we have an inset day on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November for staff to receive important training.

Thank you once again for your support during these challenging times.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shani Chinnappa', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Chinnappa  
Headteacher  
Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College