



Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College

Ballantyne Road, Farnborough. Hants. GU14 8SN

Telephone: 01252 514194 Fax: 01252 546430

Email: adminoffice@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk

Community: 01252 401080 or 01252 401087

Headteacher: Mrs S Chinnappa BSc M.Ed. NPQH

30th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

General Update – 30th March 2021

I am writing to you ahead of the Easter holidays to update you on how things are going in school and our plans for the next half term.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for all of your support with the Covid-19 home and in-school testing of our students. Nearly 40% of all students are testing twice weekly and over 95% of our staff. This is helping us to keep safe by enabling us to know the health status of those around us. Please can I remind you that students must be kept at home whilst waiting for a PCR Covid test result. Only when it has come back negative, can students return to school. If you are unsure what you should do, please contact the admin office for some advice. Over the Easter holiday, those students who have been testing at home twice weekly should continue to do so. If the LFD reports a positive result, a PCR test will need to be undertaken to confirm the positive case. Within the first 5 days of the holiday period, any positive results must be reported to school on the admin email above. This is so that we can track and trace any possible contacts and alert them to isolate. Due to an increased delay in the readiness for the saliva testing laboratory in Southampton, we have been advised to continue testing using LFD's until the situation changes with regards to capacity at the Southampton laboratory. Those of you who have opted for the saliva tests have had your packs sent home already. When we can start using them you will be updated. I apologise again for this delay but it is out of our hands. I thank you for your continued support with this. Over the holiday Mr Tyreman will be sending out texts the night before you need to test your child and if you have any questions about anything to do with Covid-19, please communicate with him directly at: g.tyreman@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk

The staff and students have been working really hard since the return to school after the latest lockdown, and I know that the staff are ready for a bit of a rest, and I am hopeful that you will be able to spend some quality time with your families over the Easter break. Whilst we do not set homework, students are able to access Sam Learning, Literacy Planet and Duo Lingo when they are not in school, and engagement with this as extra learning from home, will be rewarded within school by the awarding of extra house points and individual certificates. Please contact the school admin office if you are struggling to access any of these on-line learning systems, and we will send you usernames and passwords where needed. Whilst this is not compulsory, it will help catch up with some of the lost hours of learning over the past few months.

As you know, the Department of Education is asking teachers to grade GCSE's and other examinations that year 11 students would have been sitting this year. Teachers are only allowed to award a grade for work that has been completed as this will provide evidence for the exam boards should an appeal be lodged by a parent against the grades given by a school. I understand that these are trying times for our year 11 students, many of whom need specific grades to gain a place on their chosen course after leaving. I know that you as parents and carers will want to support us through this difficult time and I ask for understanding when your child receives their grades in early August. I can assure you that all necessary exam arrangements and concessions will be taken into account when awarding grades and grades can only be submitted with solid evidence. Our Year 11 students are currently in the process of undertaking mini tests and short assessment pieces on which some of these grades will be based. Whilst this is not an issue at our school thus far, we have been advised by the examining bodies that

we must keep records of any effort by parents or carers to put pressure on teachers to award a specific grade. We know that admission to some courses will be grade dependant, but please rest assured that we will use hard evidence for all grades awarded, and that students will be given ample opportunity to provide this evidence where they are able to do so. There is a link to the official exam guidance on our website.

After the Easter break, we are hopeful that if all goes well with the road to lockdown, we will be able to start after-school clubs again. We are also planning some off-site visits and a Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition. All of these are dependent upon the Covid-19 situation at the time, but we are ever hopeful of a very slow return to some normality here at school. After Easter our Forest School will be in operation with opportunities for students to enjoy some outside learning. Hopefully the weather will help us in this endeavour!! We will also be launching our competition to design the new school logo. More information regarding this will be given to students during the first week back.

As you may know, the building of our new SEMH unit received the go-ahead from the planning department a few weeks ago, and the building work will commence in the Easter holidays starting with the replacement of the road into school on the left hand side as you enter the gates. This initial work is to create a road able to cope with heavy lorries and so for the first two weeks back after Easter, the car parking area to the left inside the front gate will not be available for use by parents dropping off and picking up their children. Instead, parents are asked to drop off and go in the morning by pulling into the left of the road in front of the school building. Parents picking up are asked not to turn up to school too early as cars will not be able to wait. It is therefore suggested that parents arrive at school close to their child's staggered end time and pull over and pick them up as in the morning. After the road has been reinstated, parents will be able to use their usual area for drop off and pick-ups. The traffic situation will be monitored closely by staff but we would ask that you drive with care as there may be students crossing the road to meet up with parents.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for the high engagement in our Red Nose Day event from which we raised over £700 for charity. The students had a lovely time whilst raising money for a good cause.

Thank you again for your continued support and kind comments and I hope that you all manage to have a good time over the Easter break. I wish you and your families well.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs S Chinnappa
Headteacher
Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College