



Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College

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Headteacher: Mrs S Chinnappa BSc M.Ed. NPQH

13th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

General Update Letter

I hope that you and your families are well. I am writing to you to let you know about some of the things that are going to be happening in school as well as to update you on guidance received from the Government regarding Covid-19.

Firstly, I want to thank you and our students for complying with our in-school risk assessment and the wearing of masks over the past year. You will know that the guidance has now changed regarding students needing to wear masks in class and around school. From Monday 17th May, students can choose not to wear masks when in the classroom or when moving around school. I know that for many of our students, the wearing of masks has given them some reassurance and therefore if your child wishes to continue wearing a mask in school, we will support that. Students must still wear masks when using school transport. This part of the advice has not changed. We will be carrying on with our one-way system for now as well as increased hand washing and hand sanitising and social distancing. We are mindful that if there is a local outbreak, mask wearing will be expected again, and so we need to stay prepared. I would not be surprised if winter sees a return for the need to wear masks, but we will have to wait and see with some optimism about how the rest of the year will look.

Thank you also for the patience that you have shown with the roll out of the saliva testing programme. You will know now that after a delay due to laboratory capacity, this is due to go live next week, and saliva specimens should be brought into school on Monday morning. Please remember to collect the sample that morning before any food or drink has been given. If you have any questions about this, Mr Tyreman will be happy to help. Thank you also for continuing with LFD testing at home as an additional back up. The more testing that we can carry out, the safer we can keep school for everyone. Please be vigilant about symptoms that your child may develop and if they are Covid-19 related, a PCR test should be undertaken as soon as possible and the school informed immediately if it is positive.

Due to our increasing student numbers, we have created a fourth house in school. Our student voice group have been involved in choosing a name and they have decided that the fourth house, which will be signified by the colour yellow, will be called Bronte. Many students have asked to be put into the new house, and so Mr Tyreman will be moving some children to the new house whilst maintaining a balance with regards to skills across all houses. If a student moves to the new house, a free house T shirt will be given to them. We are planning to hold some inter-house activities during the rest of this term. There will be a balance of sporty and creative competitions.

Our Year 9 students will soon be choosing their KS4 options. We intend to hold two days of options consultations which parents will be invited to. These will be hosted by Mr King and Mr Jenkins on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th May. We will be in touch soon to arrange appointments for you. The options booklet for Year 9 includes some new qualifications as well as a bigger selection of subjects. Hopefully there will be enough for students to choose from. This will be sent to you shortly so that you can read it before your appointment, which you will attend with your child. Covid-19 safety procedures will be in place for these appointments.

Our Year 11 students will be leaving us on the 25th June, and we will be saying goodbye to them in the normal way with a Record of Achievement Assembly and a leavers Summer Ball. It has not been an easy year for them, and we will be sad to see them go. Because we did not have a sports day last year, we plan to hold one on Thursday 24th June. This will involve the whole secondary school. Sadly parents will be unable to attend this event due to Covid-19, but we are hopeful that we will be able to get parents back into school, for events after the summer break. Our Primary students will also have a sports day, and this will take place on Thursday 15th July. Parental attendance at this event will be subject to advice at the time.

I would like to remind you that student absence from school for holidays that occur in term-time, cannot be authorised by the school. Our students have missed a huge amount of learning already due to Covid-19, and so it is important that unless unwell, students should be in school every day. Because so much learning has been missed, please encourage your children to engage in Sam Learning, Literacy Planet and Duo-Lingo where they can. We will be able to see what they have been doing out of school hours and extra house points will be given to children who undertake work at home. Whilst we do not ordinarily set Homework, some amount of learning from home in addition to the school day even for a short while, will help our students to keep on making progress. With regards to progress, all students will be receiving a School Annual Report at the end of the year. Teachers have been asked to focus on 3 key aspects of their individual curriculum areas and report if students are below, meeting or exceeding their targets. Teachers will also write a short paragraph about the student and report on the effort that students have put into their studies. Tutors will also include some feedback on the same form. We are in the middle of changing our assessment and tracking system, and we are moving more towards this bespoke approach. We hope that you will find it useful.

Finally, in case you are planning travel in the summer to an overseas destination or indeed are planning a staycation in the UK, students break up for the summer holidays on Thursday 22nd July. Staff have an inset day on the Friday so that they can finish important safeguarding training ahead of the new academic year. We will be returning to school after the summer holiday on Monday 6th September 2021.

I hope this information is useful to you. I will, of course, be in touch again before the end of the year with other updates. I wish you a safe and relaxing May half term break.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs S Chinnappa
Headteacher
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