



## **Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College**

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Headteacher: Mrs S Chinnappa BSc M.Ed. NPQH

20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### **General school and Covid-19 Update – Primary and Secondary– 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you ahead of the summer holidays to update you on how things have been going in school and to set out our plans for the beginning of the new academic year.

Again, I would like to thank you for all of your support with the Covid-19 home and in-school testing of our students. This is continuing to help us keep safe by enabling us to know the health status of those around us. If you have not yet responded to Mr Tyreman's letter asking what form of testing you wish to engage with from September, please help us by sending that in as soon as possible. If you have any positive results for our students from Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July up to the Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August, please email Mr Tyreman who will help the NHS track and trace contacts. You can communicate with him directly at: [g.tyreman@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk](mailto:g.tyreman@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk)

The last term has been quite challenging, as many of our local schools have had to deal with regular outbreaks of the Delta variant, and we have siblings and staff who have children in those schools. We had been very lucky until this last few days when a couple of students tested positive. All that has needed to be done in order to keep everyone safe has been done, including on-site testing yesterday of all students who have not tested over the weekend. Thank you for supporting us with this. I am hoping that we will not have any more cases, as we had not had a single one in school since October last.

#### **Trips/activities (Secondary)**

While we have become consumed with managing the daily threat of Covid, we have nonetheless been able to widen the horizons of many of our students by offering them some unique experiences over the past four weeks. We had a visit for YR 9 from the Royal Navy outreach team, who came into school at no cost to us and delivered an amazing day filled with team building activities focussing on aspects of naval engineering and problem solving. All students had a great day and we plan to get the Navy back again next year to work with some different year groups. They were full of praise for our students and remarked how beautifully well behaved they all were.

At the end of June, we held a very successful Sports day in Secondary. It was delightful to see the school running virtually normally, and whilst I understand that secondary parents were disappointed that they could not attend, it was well worth holding and all participated and had fun as a whole school.

Late in June we said goodbye to our year 11's with a lovely leaver's speech day. It was sad to see them go, but we know that they will go on to bigger and better things and we wish them all the best with their college courses in September.

Our budding art students have been on several day trips this term in order to explore the joy of 'plein air' painting and drawing, and our Duke of Edinburgh Award students, who were not so lucky with the weather, were able to complete their expedition section.

#### **Trips/activities (Primary)**

In early July, the primary department also held a very successful sports day. All had a lovely day and did their very best. Last week the primary department and year 7 had the opportunity to visit the onsite mobile farm. We were so lucky with the weather and the pupils in primary and the students from year 7 had a wonderful session interacting with chickens, goats, miniature donkeys and some very cute Kune Kune piglets! This is something that we will be repeating next year as so much fun was had by all.

### **Student leaders**

After a difficult round of applications and interviews, our House Captains and Senior Students were announced in assembly last week. We wish them all success in their new leadership roles moving into year 11.

### **YR 10 English Literature results**

Year 10 students who have completed a GCSE in English Literature can come into school to receive their result on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August between 10 am and 12 noon. If results are not collected they will be sent home via registered post later that day.

### **Plans for next year**

Our plans next year include residential opportunities to Avon Tyrell, a couple to the Isle of Wight and Runways End. Additionally we will be offering an enrichment session for KS3 students including sailing and other water sports at Horseshoe Lake. These are just some of the exciting opportunities that we hope to be able to offer our students.

We are hoping to start running after school clubs in greater number in September. We will let you know in September, what these will be as there is still a level of uncertainty about how things will work in the world of Covid.

We hope to return to some form of normality with regards to parents coming into school for some type of progress meeting with teachers. We are considering our options and will be in touch in the new academic year with some thoughts on this.

### **School expectations from September (Including uniform)**

Finally I would like to set out our expectations for the coming year and tell you about some slight tweaks to our Covid -19 management strategies.

Because we have no idea what September will look like, we have decided to keep some controls in place in school to help keep us all safe. There will continue to be an expectation that students will carry on with hand sanitising and regular hand washing. Students can continue to wear masks if they wish. We understand that many of our students are still worried about Covid-19 and want to support them where we can moving forward. We will also continue with our one way system for the time being and will review this at Christmas. We expect that if your child is on any Hampshire Transport service, that they will inform you directly for the need, or not, to wear masks on transport to school.

Students currently eat lunch in smaller groups dependent upon key stage and whether they eat packed lunches or school meals. This separation will continue until at least Christmas as it help us to keep students from congregating in too large a group. If you wish to change from packed lunches to school meals, please let Mr Tyreman know so that we can plan for September.

From September all secondary students should wear school uniform every day. Secondary students will be able to change for PE in the changing rooms, so should come into school in appropriate uniform which is: School polo shirt, black or grey trousers or skirt, black shoes (not trainers) and black school sweatshirt. If your child is in the new house 'Bronte', a free house T-shirt has been ordered and will be available at the start of term. Whilst uniform with the new logo is now available from Myclothing.com,

there is no expectation that the new uniform will be purchased, unless students have grown out of their current uniform. Thus there will be a transition phase in which both logos are acceptable in school. Primary students should continue to wear their PE kit into school on a day that PE is timetabled.

I would just like to remind you that our last school day this year is Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of September are inset days. We all return to school at the usual time on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

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

Yours Sincerely

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

Mrs S Chinnappa  
Headteacher  
Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College