

June 26th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 10

We have had an excellent week and great attendance with Year 10 and it was really lovely to see students back in school and keen to engage with maths and English staff. Next week English sets 1a and 1b are in on Monday and Tuesday to meet with their option subject teachers while English sets 1c and 2a are in on Wednesday and Thursday. Remote learning remains the norm for all Year 10 the rest of the time.

Mrs J Beesley has now taken responsibility as Head of Year for Year 10 and can be contacted at jbeesley@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk

Year 11

Today is officially the last day of school for Year 11 across the country. On Wednesday we should have celebrated with them at the Prom and we do hope to be able to organise an event for them when restrictions allow. We wish all our Year 11 the very best for the future. There is a video message for all of them on the website and we have sent them all a virtual year book of memories.

Tuesday June 30th - Sports Day

Due to lockdown we have missed our annual sports day alongside so much else. Tuesday June 30th is an 'at home' Sports Day across Lancashire – organised by Lancashire School Games. We are not going to set lessons this day to allow students to take part in the activities and these will be put on Show My Homework on Monday. There will be an introductory letter from the organisers and a link to a programme of activities and challenges during the day.

Friday July 3rd – INSET day

In the school calendar this was a training day for staff and will continue to be so with staff working in Faculties to plan for next year. No class work will be set on this day. The school will still be open for the current group of keyworker children and those deemed vulnerable.

Friday June 10th – Year 7

We are very conscious that Year 7 have only had 6 months actually in school. Government guidelines do allow us to bring other year groups into school if we have capacity but there can still only be 25% of a cohort in at any one time. We are therefore going to invite Year 7 into school on Friday June 10th for a catch up with their mentor. Students will be allocated an 80 minute session during the day as we can only have a maximum of 7 students from each mentor group in at a time. Letters will be sent out towards the middle of next week.

Summer holiday period

Now that lockdown restrictions have eased considerably and there is greater opportunity to meet with other people and family members, there will not be the need for school to be open over the summer holiday period and so July 17th will be the last day of provision for the keyworker group and those deemed vulnerable.

School in September

Last week the Prime minister announced the intention that all students will be back in school in September. Currently we are awaiting guidance for just what that will mean in practice – and that guidance will hopefully be sent out by the Department for Education next week. I will update you as soon as I am able. I think we all benefit from a clearer picture regarding the Autumn term.

Black Lives Matter

We have recently seen global demonstrations and signs of support for the ‘Black Lives Matter’ campaign. I finish with a poem written by Natalie, one of our year 7 students. I was so impressed when I read this.

Best wishes,

Andrew Waller

Poem by Natalie – Year 7

I am a white 12 year old girl
My skin is the colour of a pearl
I would love to be brown
But I am so fair that I will never tan
Why do we spend some much time in the sun?
Then when people are darker than us, we make fun.

I can walk down the street without people stopping to stare
I am not scrutinised, I am not under the glare
I am not written off before my life begins
I am given every opportunity regardless of my sins.
My name is not judged before people meet me
I am accepted for who I am and for just being me.

Like my ancestors before me, the world is my oyster, I am free
I don't know my heritage or my family tree
But I know it won't be filled with suffering and pain
Unimaginable hardship for someone else's gain.
The stories I could tell won't bring a tear to the eye
I can't imagine telling stories where my relatives were beaten till they died.

I can't even claim to understand what it feels like to be black
To be bullied, judged to be sneered at, to my face and behind my back
I can't understand it, not because I have never experienced it or because I am ignorant or naïve.
But because I can't understand how you can judge someone for not being like me.
Everyone one no matter the colour of their skin, has the right to be free
Black lives matter, every life matters, live and let be!