

February 25<sup>th</sup> 2022

Dear Parents & Carers

We are now just over half way through the academic year and it continues to bring its challenges with staff absence due to Covid and other illnesses. We have managed to keep the school fully open and will do our very best to continue to do so. The changes to legislation this week around Covid isolation will not actually change much in practice as it is still a recommendation (and strongly supported by Lancashire's Director of Public Health) that anyone testing positive for Covid isolates for at least five days and returns after two negative lateral flow tests. As I said in my email earlier this week, schools will no longer be giving out lateral flow tests and these can be resourced from local pharmacies or on line if needed.

## Year 9

Year 9 are now in the throes of the options process. They have had assemblies and input on KS4 courses during lessons and yesterday had their options evening. Next Thursday is their Parents Evening and I encourage all year 9 parents and carers to make appointments on the school cloud system with class teachers. If you wish to have a further discussion about options there is also the possibility of selecting a meeting on school cloud with a member of the leadership team.

## Year 11

There are now only 9 school weeks until the summer exams begin and so Year 11 need to be absolutely focussed on their revision and preparation. They have an additional set of mock exams in Maths and English next week. Whatever the disruption of the past two years, all Year 11 students are in competition for those grades with every other Year 11 student in the country and so must be focussed on achieving the highest grades they can. It really is important that students are doing 10-15 hours revision each week outside school if they are serious about achieving good grades. GCSEPods is a good source of revision material and further information on revision techniques is available on the school website [https://files.schudio.com/carrhillschool/files/documents/Website-uploads/Curriculum\\_Info/Year\\_11\\_Info\\_Evening\\_2021.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/carrhillschool/files/documents/Website-uploads/Curriculum_Info/Year_11_Info_Evening_2021.pdf)

Miss Coulthard arranged a motivational speaker Ross McWilliams to speak to all Year 11 and they have had that talk in groups today.

## Teacher Training

Please find attached a flyer for the Open Day on March 10<sup>th</sup> at Ripley in Lancaster for teacher training. Some of you may be thinking of moving in to the teaching profession or have relatives who are doing so and as a school we have always found the training provided to student teachers through Ripley to be of excellent quality.

## School Uniform

As a school we do have items of uniform that have been donated that we can use to help families. If you do have any items of unwanted uniform that are in good clean condition please bring do bring them in to school. We are currently working with a second uniform supplier for the school and will send out details when this is finalised. We are also currently exploring the possibility of a second hand uniform shop in school – if any of you as parents have any suggestions or experience of that I would be grateful for your thoughts.

## **New York**

It is great to see school trips and visits making a come back. Every February up to 2020 we always had a very successful trip to New York and this has been arranged for February 2023. Letters will be available next week for current Year 9 students initially with all the details.

## **Congratulations.**

A few weeks ago in a letter I mentioned Dan in Year 10 who had been offered a place in the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Band. Dan has now successfully auditioned for the National Youth Concert Band of Great Britain and will rehearse with them at Easter. A fantastic achievement.

Holly, who is also in Year 10 and was chosen for the England Girls u15s, trained during half term at St George's Park and was given her England shirt. She also captained the team in a game at Aston Villa and will take part in the Bob Docherty Easter tournament where England will play international matches v Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Again, a fantastic achievement.

Finally, congratulations to 37 Key Stage 3 and 4 students whose creative writing on the theme of 'Twisted Tales' is being published by Young Writers. Students enjoyed considering different perspectives of villains in literature and writing in the voice of a villain. For this competition, Young Writers received over 19,000 entries. All of the work submitted by our students was chosen for publication which was a great achievement. Young Writers Editor, Sarah Waterhouse writes, "Having all of your students' work chosen is something to be proud of, it doesn't happen every day! I was impressed by their writing - such a privilege to read and every piece will make a fantastic addition to 'Twisted Tales'".

With best wishes.



Andrew Waller  
Headteacher