

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

It feels difficult to believe that we find ourselves at the end of another challenging term. We are incredibly thankful for your partnership throughout. After starting January in lockdown there have certainly been lots of ups and downs, things have not always gone to plan but your patience, understanding and support have always been appreciated. It is also pleasing to report that we have ended the term in a very positive manner with our young people back in school and happy to be learning.

We don't underestimate the impact that lockdown has had on many of our students and their families. Our priority over the last three weeks has been to re-establish routines and offer care and support to those who need it. Please get in touch with your child's Head of Year, should you or your child require further support. As we head into the break, I would like to highlight that there are a range of resources and links to that students and parents can access.

They can be found here.

- <https://www.chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk/chs-distance-learning/happy/mental-health-and-wellbeing>
- <https://www.chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk/chs-distance-learning/happy/family-and-student-support>

We all hope that the Easter holidays will enable our students to break away from so much screen time. However, we are aware that there are still restrictions that place pressure onto our students. We have created some activities that students may wish to undertake.

- For Year 7-9 these are focused on activities that are off screen, should they be looking for inspiration during the holidays.
- Year 10 teachers have placed some additional optional tasks into their MS Teams areas to help them consolidate and further inspire their independent study.
- Additional study materials have also been provided for Year 11 students appropriate to any ongoing assessments.

### **Reporting positive cases of coronavirus**

Once again as we move into the holidays, schools have been asked to continue tracking positive cases for first 6 days of the Easter holidays. To facilitate this process we have asked that parents and carers let us know if your child tests positive over the next few days by emailing us the information to [admin@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:admin@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk) If your child has been identified as a student who has tested positive within school we will then contact you via email. We all hope that this will not be the case.

### **Year 11 Assessments**

This week the examination boards have been in the process of confirming arrangements for their summer assessments. This guidance really follows the process that we have already written to parents about earlier in the term. After Easter we will publish our final policy on grading, once it has been agreed by the school's Governing Body.

It is important that our students remain safe, well and COVID-19 free over the coming weeks. We strongly advise them to follow the lockdown advice and not to mix with other people outside the government's rules over the holidays. We want them fit and well, and able to complete their Year 11 in school for the weeks that they have left.

### Home testing kits.

This week students have been supplied with additional home testing kits which will allow them to test for COVID-19 at home throughout the holidays; we hope that this will give our families some additional reassurance.

At the end of the Easter break, we ask that students **test themselves on the Sunday evening** before they return to school. This way we can break potential chains of transmission and identify those with the virus who may not experience any symptoms. This helps keep the school and our community safe.

### Communication with Home

We are fully aware that over the past year parents have had to read a great deal of information that we have sent home. Optimistically, we hope that the summer term will be less disrupted by new challenges! We, therefore, will intend to revert to our original whole school communication plan, which is a fortnightly letter home, and a fortnightly edition of the Chorlton Connection. We will, of course, contact parents with any emergent communication, as necessary.

Finally, I wanted to publicly thank the staff at the school. Over the past year we have all been under tremendous pressure. At times, the school's plans have had to change very swiftly and our staff have been incredible in making sure they support our students and one another through very testing times. They have turned their hand to many ways of working. Whether this is quickly moving to online lessons or carrying out hundreds of COVID-19 tests each day. Always with the idea that they wish to support our school community in the best possible way. They are a brilliant team!

We are looking forward now to a brighter and, optimistically, less disrupted summer term! We wish all our families all the best for a relaxing, and hopefully sunny Easter break.

Kind regards

Z Morris  
Headteacher

