



GUISELEY SCHOOL

1 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to the Easter break. I hope you have been able to take some time to read through our newsletter that was sent yesterday. As I said in that publication, it has been fantastic to have the students back in school again and school feels vibrant and full of energy after such a long lockdown.

I wanted to write to you as we enter the Easter Holiday period to update you on some key issues and celebrate a successful return to school this half-term.

Contact Tracing

The school will be closed to all students over the Easter holiday but we continue to be responsible for providing the contact tracing process on behalf of PHE. If your child tests positive for COVID-19 through an LFT or PCR test, please follow the advice below.

- Ensure you know when your child first developed symptoms of COVID-19 or completed their positive home test.
- If your child developed symptoms or carried out the home test after 2:45pm on Sunday 4 April and tests positive you do not need to inform the school as they haven't been infectious whilst at school. Please organise for your child to have a confirmatory PCR test and follow the NHS track and trace process.
- If your child developed symptoms or carried out the home test at any point before 2:45pm on Sunday 4 April and tests positive, please contact the school via email positivetest@guiseleyschool.org.uk Please include the following information in your email:
 - a. The name and form of your child.
 - b. The date and time symptoms first appeared or positive test was taken
 - c. Organise for your child to have a confirmatory PCR test if they have tested positive using the home testing kits and have not already done so.
- The above email will be checked daily and a member of staff will then be in touch to speak to you and your child about the situation and their social contacts in school. We will also speak to teachers about seating plans in classrooms and what happened during their lessons.

COVID-19 cases in school

Since our full return we have had 3 positive cases of COVID-19 in school which has led to groups of students having to isolate for 10 days. This is obviously a major concern for parents when their children have already spent so long out of school. Unfortunately, there is very little we can do about this. Whilst the home testing means more positive cases may well be discovered, this is the reason for the Government introducing home testing. The positive side of home testing is that early identification of cases means we are far more likely to break the chains of transmission, so that in the long term we are likely to see fewer cases in school and smaller number of students isolating.

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Catch-up Curriculum

Parents and students will have seen discussion in the media of 'gaps' in students' knowledge and the need for extensive 'catch-up' following the school closures this year but here at Guiseley we are very pleased that the response from our students, with the excellent support they have had from parents and carers, has bucked this trend. Our initial assessments and internal examinations are confirming that students have learned exceptionally well during the most recent period of remote learning and we are very proud of the way they have approached their work and their reintegration back into school.

Work has already begun with targeted and bespoke intervention in the classroom for students we have identified would benefit from further support and for those for whom online learning was more challenging. One of our key pieces of work for Year 7 in the coming months will be to accelerate their reading.

Guiseley School is committed to strengthening the learning of every child in our school. We know that accelerated learning happens when students have access to face to face learning in the classroom and so it is essential that, following this period of remote education, students are in school whenever they can be in order to increase their progress and enhance their chances of future success.

Ramadan

This year we are pleased to be offering a prayer room for our students who are observing the holy month of Ramadan. This is in response to student voice from previous years and it has been great to work alongside a number of Key Stage 4 students to plan this over recent weeks. Students will be able to access the room during break and lunch times in order to pray, or to have a quiet space to reflect during busy social times. We will share details of times and locations on Monday 19 April, as well as speaking to the wider school community about how to be a good ally to students who are fasting during this time.

Finally

To end I would like to thank all parents for your support in this most challenging of terms. Looking back, I feel so proud about what our staff and students have achieved since January. It feels like a long time ago since we were put back into lockdown and had to restart home learning. Parental feedback about the level of support from our staff and the quality of Teams lessons has been very positive overall, whilst also giving us some food for thought about how things could be even better. Many of you have been in touch to show your gratitude to the school for our efforts and also expressed that through the kind donations towards the staff wellbeing fund organised by parents and the PTA.

I hope you all enjoy a chance to rest and relax over the Easter break and I look forward to welcoming the students back on 19 April for what will be an incredibly busy and productive Summer term with the possibility of a return to some normality.

Yours sincerely



Paul Clayton
Headteacher