



April 2022

Dear parents, guardians, carers

A few points to ensure we set the right tone for the summer term and beyond.

Attendance

A small proportion of students are having absence authorised by parents to a disproportionate level. This will affect their future success as assessments are so much more rigorous now. Please only keep children at home if there is a clear medical reason for doing so.

Covid matters: As of Friday, the government ceased making free lateral flow tests available. Therefore, we will no longer be able to order test kits for distribution to students.

Covid is now being regarded as 'another respiratory infection'. That being said, anyone testing positive or with Covid 19 symptoms is advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people during their most infectious period. For young people under the age of 18, 3 days of isolation at home is advised. For those who are 18 and over, the advisory period of isolation is 5 days. Please see the [Covid guidance here](#). Students should not come back to school if they still have a temperature – for their own benefit as well as the rest of the community.

In the last couple of weeks, staff absences through illness have been among the highest levels we have ever known. Access to supply cover has been extremely limited. Our staff have been superb at responding to last minute changes. To minimise the risk of in-school infection at this critical time, and to avoid sending any more year groups home, students will still be asked to wear face coverings in congested spaces in school for **this week. Please can you ensure they pack these**. Further guidance is anticipated from Public Health, Dorset early next week which may reflect the local context

Easter Studies for all

Students preparing for examinations this year will be encouraged to have a balanced but disciplined approach to their Easter revision. For some, this will include attending Easter revision support classes. It is really **important that all students** spend time retaining and refreshing the vast depths of knowledge from their knowledge organisers during the Easter period. As students know, when 'the forgetting curve' begins to dip, it is the perfect opportunity to strengthen their retrieval. Please see the note below about **watches** and exams.

Safety to and from school

Please remember that the school drive has been closed to cars at the start and end of the school day for the last two years. The pedestrian rear entrance from school to the residential area via Tatnam Road along with the stadium car park provide ample alternatives. Please respect the safety of our many cyclists and do not drive on to the site during peak times.

Sonar Magazine

Please can I draw your attention to the information in the school newsletter which will be released via a text link this week which celebrates so much of the activity in school this term. It also has some important guidance regarding the summer term.

Expectations

In spite of the sleet showers, we will be technically moving from the Spring Term into the summer. **The school uniform** exists so we can focus on learning, not fashion. Please can you continue to support the school regarding the requirement of **knee length skirts**. We fully understand that as students grow, this can be difficult and accept a tolerance of two inches only. **White socks** are not uniform, please ensure socks are black ankle length only. **Trainer-style shoes** and **suede / velvet material shoes** are not uniform.

Expectations are clearly laid out on [our website](#). Please ensure your child does not bring prohibited items into school. When items such as jewellery are confiscated, we cannot guarantee their return the same day.

Finally, please note that **electronic watches** are not allowed in school. We have not, as yet, followed the examination board requirement which bans the wearing of **all** watches. Breaches of this rule can result in a candidate having the entire series of exams cancelled. Please can you reinforce this good habit.

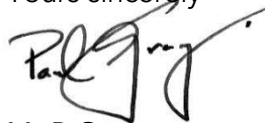
Return to school

We look forward to welcoming students back to school for the summer term on Monday 25 April.

A reminder please to ensure that your son/daughter arrives promptly to school each day, ready to start at 8.25am in full school uniform and has a fully equipped pencil case including a calculator.

As always, thank you for your support and I wish you all a safe and restful Easter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Gray', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Mr P Gray
Headteacher