



20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent,

## Updates and Reminders

The relationship between our parents and the school has been pivotal from the start of 2020 in ensuring we work together to provide the highest level of support for our students. It is for this reason that we value the open communication and dialogue we have with our families on a regular basis through our weekly letters as well as our updates via social media.

### Year 8 and 9 Remote learning

This week, our Year 9 students have been completing their learning from home and will return to school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. There has been a large proportion of our students who have engaged extremely well with their learning throughout the week and therefore will have continued to make progress with their learning. Unfortunately, for a small minority, despite the planning and preparation from our teaching staff, there has been a lack of engagement which clearly raises concerns from a school perspective.

Preparations have continued through this week to ensure our Year 8 students are well prepared to complete their week of remote learning from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Once again, we have prepared students with various log in details, followed up to ensure all students have the correct devices and made our expectations clear within an assembly today. There is a clear expectation for all students to engage with the work set via ClassCharts and our staff will be following up with students where there are any concerns about a lack of engagement or effort.

### Pursuit of Excellence

Last week's letter provided a reminder of our expectations and standards with regards to behaviour during lessons and unstructured time. We also outlined our plans to talk to students about their readiness to learn and the reasons why they are expected to respond quickly and positively to all staff instructions. This helps keep our school safe and ensures a calm and productive learning environment for everyone. Our teaching staff have been using the phrase '**when you're ready**' on a consistent basis this week and it has been very pleasing to see the swift response by students across the school. This has allowed lesson changeovers to be more efficient and more learning to take place within lessons. The relentless pursuit of excellence will continue each and every day but we have been pleased with how this week has gone overall, so thank you once again for reinforcing these important messages at home.

## **Anti-Bullying Week**

Anti-Bullying Week has been another opportunity to ensure that our students understand the impact of their words and actions. Our assembly theme of respect and acceptable language looked at how damaging and hurtful words and actions can be to one another whilst also allowing students to reflect on their experiences and consider their language choices in future.

## **Junior Prefects**

This week has also seen the launch of our Junior Prefects. We have had an overwhelming response from kind, responsible students from Year 7, 8 and 9 who are going to be an invaluable support in our bubble areas. Prefects are there to help and support their peers, to ensure everyone follows rules and stay safe at break and lunch and we are sure they will do an amazing job!

## **Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening**

Adapting to the new way of working has seen us invest in a virtual parents' evening platform called School Cloud. We are extremely excited to trial this for the first time on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November and will provide an update within next week's letter.

## **Masks**

The pastoral team have given out over 200 masks to students in the past week alone which, in addition to increasing their workload, raises a concern about some students not taking responsibility for their masks. Whilst in lessons and around the school we can see the students wearing these responsibly to ensure the safety of themselves and others. However, there are far too many who are not coming to school with their masks on a daily basis. We have been tracking these students and will continue to contact parents to work alongside the school to ensure your children arrive for school well prepared on a daily basis.

Take care over the weekend. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions, feedback or concerns at [enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely,

*Mr B Dunne*

Executive Secondary Lead

*Mr J Lewis*

Head of School