

10th February 2021

Dear parents, agents and guardians,

This Half Term has been busy despite all the limitations of lockdown. The student body on site and online has been positive in the approach they have taken to learning. Some of the students studying remotely have had to be 'prodded' to turn their cameras on, but there has been some very good levels of learning seen. Mike Colville and I have been in lesson observations and have seen the innovative and exciting ways that Covid-19 Update students have been engaging in their subjects.

Update on Public Examinations

The national position appears to be improving with infection rates, hospital admissions and Covid-related deaths all falling.

As per my letter earlier in the term and the Webinar that parents of Year 11 and Year 13 students attended, we are awaiting clarity and confirmation concerning the I/GCSE and A Level exams scheduled for May and June. OFQUAL's consultation closed last week, with over 90,000 responses. There is currently talk of externally assessed tests to help teachers come to an accurate assessment of student performance. At this stage, it appears likely that students will receive grades submitted by their teachers based on a range of evidence available to them including:

- Saturday tests;
- Internal assessments;
- Mock examinations;
- Practical assessments; and
- More than likely, the exam board's externally set tests.

Grades will be released in early July.

The outcome of the consultation is expected around 23 February 23, which is also when we might get more detail about any relaxation of lockdown.

The College believes it is imperative that international students return as soon as it is possible to do so safely, so that we can ensure that we have a significant portfolio of evidence to support grades. Day students, we believe, will be able to return from 8 March, when schools are expected to re-open.

My advice to all students remains the same - keep focusing on your studies, attend your online lessons, submit all necessary work whilst also prioritizing your own emotional health and well-being by taking some exercise and trying to find some time away from the screen.

Covid-19 Update

We will of course continue to update you on developments, but the government has confirmed that schools will be provided with two weeks' notice before the re-opening date. The College's teachers are here to support students and please do keep us informed of any support you require. Students returning to the College on 21 February will have a 10-day isolation period in their boarding house, as follows:

- Those boarders returning from elsewhere in the UK will be required to take a Lateral Flow Test under the NHS Test and Trace scheme at 3 points within the 10 day period before their release.
- Boarding students returning to the College from overseas will be required to take mandated Covid-19 tests on day 2 and day 8 of the quarantine period. They will also be required to provide proof of a negative Covid-19 tests taken no more than 3 days before departure. A passenger locator form must also be completed, 2 days before arrival in the UK.

Please note that we are awaiting confirmation of the type of Covid-19 tests required for those travelling to the UK from overseas and will provide further details as soon as these are available.

Policies Update

We frequently review the College's policies to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Given the evolving situation with the pandemic, our Covid-19 Risk Assessment has been updated regularly.

Separately, the College's Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy has recently been published in line with government guidance:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908013/Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education RSE and Health Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908013/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

The RSE Policy is attached to this letter. Please do contact me if you require any further information on this Policy.

Best wishes

Lorraine Atkins
Principal