



01 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

What a change in the weather! We have been so lucky this week with the sunshine which has meant that our students have finally been able to go back onto the school fields in their year group bubbles. I hope that you too have been able to make the most of the new freedoms we were given on Monday 29th March. I was near to the Open Air pool earlier this week visiting a student and it was so lovely to see a queue of people waiting to go in.

We have a great two-week break to look forward to now with the hope of more restrictions being removed on Monday 12th April, with non-essential shops opening again as long as Covid numbers do not rise. We have really appreciated the efforts many of you have gone to in terms of ordering uniform items online and know ourselves how difficult it often is to get things like shoes that fit.

Uniform from April 19th

As the shops reopen, so our expectations in terms of uniform will return to normal too. The summer term is 13 weeks long and we want to get back to our usual high standards of dress for the whole of that time.

- **Shoes** - From Monday 19th April we will expect all students to be back in polishable school shoes every day, not trainers.
- **Piercings** - We also ask that if you allowed your child to have their nose pierced over lockdown, that you provide them with a small, transparent one if it is impossible to remove it for the duration of the school day. I would also like to remind parents that the uniform policy allows for 1 pair of stud earrings only, not multiple piercings in each ear.
- **Jewellery** – the uniform policy allows for one wristwatch to be worn
- **Nails** – students should have no false nails or coloured nail varnish
- **Hair** – as ever we expect no extreme styles or non-natural hair colours

Equipment from 19th April

The vast majority of students have now been arriving at school fully equipped for their day's learning. If you could check that your child has a pencil case with all the necessary equipment by the time we return on the 19th April that would be really helpful and allow them to fully participate in every lesson.

- **Green pens** – students self-assess their work in class and make notes in improvement time in green pen so that we can see where they are finding work more challenging. Every child should therefore have a green pen in their pencil case please.
- **PE kit** – the expectation is that all students participate in PE every lesson as it is part of their National Curriculum offer. The only exception should be for students who have evidence from a doctor that they have a condition or injury which prevents them from taking part in physical activity.

Staggered days and bubbles

We have not had any update from the government about any changes to the routines we have had since September 2020. If we do have any news over the Easter break we will not be changing anything from the 19th April as we will not have had chance to communicate with families. We have already made the decision that we will continue to teach in year groups for the rest of this academic year.

Face coverings

Again, we have not had any further guidance about a relaxation in terms of the wearing of face coverings in school. Thank you for supporting us to help keep our community safer by providing your children with face coverings every day. I am pleased to say that we have had no need to send cohorts of children home from Wykham Park because of positive Covid cases, and only one small group have had to self-isolate from Futures Institute.

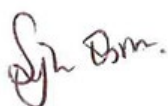
Lateral flow tests

If your child was in school on the last day of term they will have been given their next box of lateral flow tests. We ask that you save one of these to use on Sunday 18th April before your child returns to school for the summer term. We also ask that if the result is positive you take your son/daughter for a PCR test before they return to school. If they do test positive please email us to say that this is the case.

Our next drop down day

On Tuesday 27th April we have our next drop down day, where students study a range of PSHCEE issues. We have been very saddened since we have returned to school to find that a small number of students have been using racist, homophobic or transphobic language. There is no room on our campus for prejudice of any kind. We will therefore be devoting our drop down day to sessions where we discuss diversity and embracing difference. We have always prided ourselves in being a very open and welcoming community and the incidents that have happened require an immediate response from us to reassure all students that they are valued whatever their skin colour, sexuality or gender identity. We know that you will support us at home if you hear derogatory words being used that are simply not acceptable in 21st century Britain.

Yours faithfully



Sylvia Thomas
Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus