



Wykhampark Academy Banbury

an Aspirations Academy

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Miss Sylvia Thomas – Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus

23rd April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to everyone for supporting a positive and purposeful return to school after the Easter break.

As I write in my last letter the protocols we have in place for reducing the potential spread of the Covid 19 virus remain. These include staggered starts and finishes, working in year group bubbles at all times, wearing of face coverings indoors and hand sanitising as often as possible. We will of course let you know if anything changes in this respect.

Lateral flow tests

We continue to send out the lateral flow test kits to your households. Please can you help us by carrying out these with your children and recording the results immediately as the instructions ask. We have had one positive LFT result this week which was then followed up by a PCR which proved negative. If your child does test positive at home we ask that you follow Government guidance and go to the walk in test centre for them to take a PCR.

Uniform and equipment

The vast majority of children in school are now fully equipped and wearing their uniform correctly with pride. We will contact you directly if there are still any issues and of course offer support. We still have items of cleaned second hand ties and other items of uniform at a much reduced price if you want to ask us about these.

Year 11 and Year 13 news

Every school and college is required to set out its approach for the summer 2021 grading process in a document called the “**centre policy**”.

We have submitted ours and you can find it in two places on the website shown in the links below. Please find some time to read this as it underpins everything we are doing over the next few weeks.

<https://www.wykhampark-aspirations.org/curriculum/exams/> and <https://www.wykhampark-aspirations.org/information/policies/>

We are very proud of the way in which the vast majority of Y11 and Y13 students are approaching the process we have had to rapidly devise.

This is an amazing opportunity for all of them without the intense pressure of external examinations of usual years. Our outline approach is to provide teaching on specific topics and



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then assess the students directly after this specific input. Students who are therefore in school every day for all lessons have the best chance of performing at their potential across the next six weeks. As we always say, but even more so this year, every minute of every lesson counts.

Parents' evenings

We have now successfully trialled our new online Parents' Evening system with Year 11, 12 and 13. We would appreciate any feedback that parents might have and our current thinking is that we will be using this system going forward as it seems to have so many benefits.

Homework

Now that homework is being set after the initial return to school, we have put in place a system for supporting those students who are failing to complete their learning.

Below we outline what will happen following a student's failure to complete homework

Step 1-

Student misses a deadline for homework. Please warn them and make clear that it needs to be handed in the following lesson/day.

Step 2-

Student still does not submit the work. Subject teacher to log on SIMS as 'incomplete homework' and notify Head of Subject so a standard email can be sent to parents via schoolcomms.

Step 3-

If the student still does not complete the work despite letter home- referred to the year group team and will go on green report with targets specific to homework.

Step 4-

If student fails green report- 15 min detention after school with Head of Year/Assistant Head of Year and escalate to orange report

Step 5-

If student fails orange report- kept for half an hour after school and escalate to red report

Step 6-

Students on red report will be monitored closely by the year group team and further sanctions/support identified in addition to conversations with parents/carers.

Year 9 Immunisation

Just a reminder that Year 9 students will be having their inoculations on Tuesday 27th April administered by the school nursing team.

Drop down day

On Tuesday 27th April we also have our next drop down day sessions during P1 – 3. We are looking at a variety of topics linked to celebrating diversity in our community and tackling challenging issues such as homophobia, transphobia and racism in our society. This is all linked around the British Values that underpin what we do in our country.

Safeguarding

Please find below a range of resources which we have gathered together as a Trust to help us all keep your children safe. We thought you would like to see the tools that we are being offered to support.

Step Up, Speak Up! (Childnet)

Almost half of 13-17 year olds have witnessed their peers editing photos of someone to make them sexual e.g. placing sexual emojis over them or adding different faces to pornographic images.

A practical campaign toolkit to address the issue of **online sexual harassment amongst young people aged 13 – 17 years**.

Online sexual harassment is unwanted sexual conduct on any digital platform and it is recognised as a form of sexual violence. It encompasses a wide range of behaviours that use digital content (images, videos, posts, messages, pages) on a variety of different platforms (private or public).

This toolkit specifically focuses on peer-to-peer online sexual harassment taking place between young people.

Step Up, Speak Up! includes a range of resources for young people and the professionals who work with them, including teachers, pastoral teams, senior school leadership and police forces.

Further details can be found here: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/step-up-speak-up>

Social Media and Cyber-advice Posters (PDSC/ChildSafeVPN)

Police Digital Security Centre (PDSC) is a not-for-profit organisation, owned by the police, who believe that the majority of cyber crime can be prevented by taking a few simple steps.

PDSC partners, ChildsafeVPN has created a set of useful infographics about cyber-safety aspects of the main apps and sites that young people may come across.

The posters are particularly useful for sharing with parents.

You can download the posters here: <https://www.policedsc.com/security-advice/safeguarding>

YoungMinds Crisis Messenger

The YoungMinds Crisis Messenger text service provides free, 24/7 crisis support across the UK. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and need support, you can text YM to 85258.

We know that finding the right support is important, especially if you need someone to talk to right now. We aim to connect every texter to a trained volunteer promptly to provide crisis help. They will listen to you and help you think more clearly, enabling you to know that you can take the next step to feeling better.

It is free and confidential to text our service from the following major networks:

EE, O2, Three and Vodafone.

These include - BT Mobile, Tesco Mobile, Virgin Mobile, iD Mobile, Sky, Telecom Plus, Lebara and GiffGaff. Some Android phones issue a warning that you will be charged for texting us, provided you are on one of these networks this warning is incorrect and you will not be charged. If you text us from a network that is not on this list there is a possibility that you may be charged for the messages and that they may appear on your bill, this is because some networks do not provide the capability to message short codes.

For more information: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/youngminds-crisis-messenger/#youngminds-crisis-messenger>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Thomas'.

Sylvia Thomas
Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus