



23rd April 2021
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Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19 Welcome to Term 5

I hope that you managed a good break. This week we have enjoyed wonderful weather and it has been great to see the students making the most of the field and outdoor social space during their breaks together. This time last year, the school was suddenly deserted and quiet; and it is important to stress the pleasure it gives us all to see the students happy and socialising yet still adhering to the various protocols that we are required to abide by.

This week we have been able to run COVID-19 safe assemblies and put across important messages to the students in a face-to-face manner. Amongst the various pieces of information, we have been sharing, we wanted to celebrate the exceptionally strong attendance that our students have achieved since the return in March. The mature way that the students in Year 11 and 13 have responded to the Centre Assessed Grading has also needed to be highlighted. We also took the opportunity to point out that we are going to be having a push on school uniform and appearance as I mentioned in my last letter. Do please refer to the policy which can be found [here](#) and also please contact us directly if you are struggling to meet the requirements. While we understand that there may be some reasonable issues to be overcome for some of our students, there is most definitely no room for jewellery or make up which is in excess of that outlined in the policy. We will remain firm in this regard and thank you for your support.

The return of extra-curricular clubs

With the gradual relaxation of the lockdown, we are now able to reinstate many of our extra-curricular sports and activities. Do look out for further information as it appears and please be assured too that all extra-clubs will be required to follow our COVID-19 risk assessment procedures.

Safeguarding

You will no doubt be aware that Ofsted are raising the issue of 'Harmful Sexual Behaviour' as a key area to inspect and report in schools. As a school we are engaging actively in the national conversation around this important issue and Miss McNeill, our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be in touch with you as parents and carers in due course to inform and consult with you as we keep abreast of this important area.

Community Awareness and Responsibility.

One of the key messages that we have been delivering to students this week refers to the need for our young people to be aware of the anxiety amongst the general public of gatherings and groups of young people in outdoor areas. I understand entirely the need for our students to be able to meet up outside but would really urge everyone to make sure it is done safely and sympathetically. I do receive concerns from residents in the Priory Garden area and I would like your support in making sure that all our young people adhere to the protocols in any public spaces.

Recently I have had some very positive news from Marlborough Rugby who are kindly continuing to sponsor and dedicate time and energy to re-establishing grass roots sport after the lockdown. Please let us know if you are aware of any other community-based groups working to develop opportunities to engage with our young people and help make up for lost time. We would be happy to signpost and support where we can.



Notification of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases

This is a paragraph that I need to keep including in my letters to you. It is really important that we keep our notification systems running and it remains vital that you let the school know through the COVID-19 email - covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk if you have any pandemic related concerns we need to be aware of. This is particularly important if you need to take a test or have a positive case. We also continue to keep up to date our dedicated area on the school website which can be found at: <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/latest-covid-19-information/>.

I hope that you enjoy the Spring sunshine and warmth which looks set to be with us for some time to come, though I hope I haven't doomed that prediction by mentioning it! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or if you can't find what you need from the various sources of communication that we seek to update regularly.

With kind regards



Mr I Tucker
Principal

