

Date 27/11/2020



Dear Parents and carers,

Please find my update below

Covid-19 update:

As you will be aware the National Lockdown ends and yesterday it was announced that Greater Manchester will be placed into Tier 3 with the tightest restrictions in place. Since returning from the half term break we have had two positive cases in two different year groups which has meant some students having to self-isolate and continue their education online. Whilst it is pleasing to note that the rates of infection are beginning to fall within the region transmission remains high and so please can I remind all parents/carers of the need to follow the guidelines strictly to help reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

- If your child has Covid-19 symptoms they should not attend the academy and should get a test
- If you child lives with someone awaiting a test result they should not attend school until a known negative result has been confirmed
- If your child tests positive for Covid-19 they should not attend school, parents must notify the academy as soon as possible
- If someone in your child's household tests positive your child should not attend school for the period of isolation

As always, if you are unsure about any of the above do contact the academy.

Year 11 update:

You may have heard recently that examinations for Y11 in England at present will go ahead next summer. The Government has repeatedly announced that this is their intention. Alongside other Headteachers and leaders in the region I have expressed my concerns about the impact of Covid on the young people of the Northwest with regard to GCSEs and the disruption this has caused. Currently however, GCSE examinations remain in place and so we continue to do everything we can to support Year 11 and prepare them for this.

This week Mr Collins and I spoke to all Year 11 students about the above and the upcoming PPE (mock) examinations that will take place after the Christmas break. Given the uncertainty of the year ahead we have explained how important these examinations are and I would ask for your support in ensuring your child is fully prepared for them. I cannot express my pride in year 11 enough at how they have come back to school and I know they will continue to make us all proud with how hard they are working. Intervention is in place to support students in a number of subjects and this will continue.

Looking to the future Mr Berry has been working hard on preparing college applications with Year 11 students. After school sessions have taken place for applications to Loreto and Xaverian Colleges to be completed in addition to additional support for other colleges, for example, Pendleton, Salford, Trafford colleges. Deadlines for college applications have been shared, the most pressing of which are as follows:



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- Loreto college – January 8th 2021,
- Xaverian college – January 15th 2021.



However, applications need to be with the Academy by early December.

Any Apprenticeships have been adversely affected by Covid-19 so students will be advised to ensure a college application is in place by Christmas but will still be given support seeking an apprenticeship in the summer term.

Rough Sleepers Project:

As posted on our social media channels we are delighted to be able to support the above project to create blankets for the homeless. Please visit our Twitter page/website for more information of how you can help out.

Youth Parliament:

This week during PSHE lessons, students have cast their votes for the UK Youth Parliament. The UK Youth Parliament campaigns each year for a cause voted for by young people ages 11-18. Students at MediaCityUK have been asked to vote for a national topic and a local topic for next years focus. The national topics included; the right to vote for 16-17 year olds, racial awareness and hate crime, and the right to free university education. The local topics to be debated for Greater Manchester included; equality in health care, transport, homelessness and leisure and culture. If your child would like to cast a personal vote, please go to www.ukparliamentweek.org/en/make-your-mark/. In addition, Student Leaders have met this week to plan some upcoming events involving; charity, diversity and Christmas.

Parents Evenings:

At present all parental meetings must take place by telephone or virtually. I will continue to review this situation however, currently Parents Evening next term will be held via Microsoft Teams. More information, including dates for your child’s year group will be sent in the next update.

Christmas events

Finally, as we enter into December we will begin to look at how we can be joyful and this will start with decorating the Christmas tree. Staff and Student Leaders have lots planned for the coming weeks and so I do hope you are able to support the many activities that we have planned to support those who are vulnerable within our community. Again, please visit our Twitter/Instagram/website for more details of events.

Thank you as always for your support and trust

Mrs Dillon

Principal



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