



Assalaamu Alaikum – ‘Peace be upon you’

Dear Parents/Guardians

RE: Principal’s Letter – Autumn Half Term 1 2020

As we come to the end of our first half term in this challenging, an unprecedented, academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to update you on some of our successes so far and thank you for your continued support.

September Reopening – The school reopened on September 1st to all students, with a comprehensive range of measures in place to address the challenges posed by Covid-19 and our need to keep our students, staff, and wider community safe. You will be pleased to hear that, to date, we have only had 1 confirmed case amongst our staff body, and 2 cases amongst our student body. This is significantly lower than other schools in Coventry, and nationally, and is testament to the hard work and measures put in place by our support staff and teaching staff. We hope that you continue to support us with maintaining this level of control through ensuring that that you notify us, immediately, if your children develop Covid-19 symptoms, or are self-isolating as a result of family transmission.

Academic Provision – Whilst the school maintained some provision for all students during the lockdown period, it is a safe assumption that there is no substitute for actual, face to face, teaching. The school is fully staffed this year in all subject areas and our students are seeing the benefits of having a stable and consistent staffing model. Recent assessments have shown that, whilst students did lose significant learning time during lockdown, and this will invariably impact on their progress, we are now beginning to fill some of the gaps created by this and the latest round of assessments shows significant improvements since the start of term.

The school has also invested heavily in online teaching capability to mitigate against the risk of any future lockdowns. Essentially, all students now have access to a full curriculum from home, via Microsoft Teams. Our students who have been forced to self-isolate have already seen the benefits of this provision, being able to access all of their lessons from home. We will continue to refine and improve this provision.

Year 11 Intervention – Clearly, one of our priorities this year has been to ensure that our Year 11 cohort are as fully prepared for their end of course examinations as possible. The school has secured weekend intervention classes for all students to support GCSE Mathematics, and iMedia. In addition, afterschool and Friday afternoon interventions are now in place. This provision will continue to increase as we move through the academic year. It is essential that Year 11 parents continue to support the school by ensuring their daughters attend all interventions scheduled for them.

Site Improvements – Over the summer break, significant work was carried out to improve and expand our ablution facilities. Students will see the benefits of these improvements after half term when on site prayer provision will be increased. In addition, there were works to the school perimeter fencing, and internal aesthetic works. There were also works to the school grounds, replacing much of the grassed area at the front of the school with artificial turf. This has allowed students with all year round areas for sitting and congregating at break and lunchtimes.





Uniform – There were significant difficulties with our uniform suppliers, Stevenson's, at the start of term. Shortages in supplies, attributable to the impact of the global Covid-19 shutdowns, meant that many parents were unable to get their uniform orders on time for the start of term. These supply issues have now been resolved and the expectation is that all students should be in full uniform from November 2nd. This includes PE kit. In addition, please remember that school coats should be plain black. There has been an increase in girls wearing coloured/patterned shawls. These are not part of the school uniform and so should not be brought to school.

School Expectations and Behaviour – At the start of term, the school introduced a new behaviour system, using a software package called Class Charts to monitor behaviour, positive and negative, across the school. This has been well received and many of you will now be accessing your daughter's behaviour updates through your mobile phones. If you do not have this facility please contact the school and we will reissue the access codes to you. As a school we have made a number of concessions, in comparison to last year's behaviour expectations, and these have been well received by students, with a definite positivity around the school. I hope that this is reflected in your conversations with your daughters outside of school.

However, at the end of this long half term, we have noticed a dip in expected behaviours by some students. Please be aware, that breaches of our code of behaviour will be dealt with, in line with our behaviour policy. We hope that you continue to support us with this, by encouraging your daughters to follow school expectations every day.

Prayer Provision – As we enter the winter months, and with the changing of the clocks this week, we have put in place timetabled provision for prayers which will be shared with you and your daughters at the start of the next half term.

Covid-19 Mandatory Face Coverings – You will be aware that Coventry's restriction level has now moved to tier 2. For us, as a school, what this means is that the wearing of face coverings in communal spaces (corridors, halls, dining facilities when not eating, etc.) will now be mandatory. We realise that this is not an ideal situation, and those with medical exemptions should make staff aware of these exemptions, but these steps are designed to keep all our school community safe. Please ensure that your daughters bring suitable coverings with them every day.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and safe half term break. We look forward to welcoming your daughters back on Monday November 2nd.

Regards

Anand Patel

Principal

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