



From the Headmaster: Weekly Update 10/09/21

Dear Parents

The new term has started in glorious sunshine and many of our normal routines have recommenced, including team sports and assemblies. New pupils and teachers have settled in swiftly and the school is well poised to build on all the momentum that we established last year.

At the time of writing we are hopeful that essential trips and visits, including residential Outdoor Pursuits (Year 7) trips to the Lake District and Grangewaters in Essex (Year 4), will go ahead in accordance with government guidance. After-school clubs across the school are also due to recommence.

There is nonetheless a residual degree of uncertainty around what will and will not be possible. Infection rates remain high within the wider community and schools elsewhere in the UK are already experiencing disruption. It is accordingly important that all members of the school community and their families should continue to exercise caution in public places and particularly on public transport. More specifically I must remind parents of senior school pupils that lateral flow testing should still be conducted twice weekly (Wednesday and Sunday evenings). In the event of a positive test please notify [NHS Test and Trace](#) and the school COVID email: CovidTest@colfes.com. Further information can be found [here](#).

After careful consideration we have decided that it would not yet be appropriate to open the school to large groups of parents or other visitors. That means that the **senior school prize-giving**, scheduled for the 16 September, will once again be an internal event. I appreciate that this will be disappointing for parents (and possibly more so for grandparents) but I hope you will understand that our most pressing priority must be to keep positive tests to a minimum and ensure educational continuity. Parents will nonetheless be welcome to attend sports fixtures which take place outdoors and it should be possible for us to host some events which are specific to particular year groups such as coffee mornings for junior parents which are scheduled for next week and the Outdoor Pursuits briefing for Year 7 parents on Tuesday. Essential pupil recruitment events, including the forthcoming open morning on Saturday, 25 September, will be subject to various restrictions.

As ever, the new term brings with it a range of new opportunities for us all and I look forward to another year of working with you in the best interest of your children.

With best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster
