

Headteacher's letter to parents

28 September 2020

Dear Parents and students,

I hope you enjoyed your weekend. We are getting into our rhythm with all the new routines and systems here and are now able to start our cycle of parent information evenings.

Coming up in the next three weeks of the half term we have a number of virtual parent information presentations. These are for sharing information on Teaching and Learning, Wellbeing, Assessment and Reporting, Parents Evenings etc and we will update you too on how we are managing the current environment. On **Thursday, October 8th** we will hold the presentations for Year 7 parents at 5.15 p.m. and at 6.45 p.m. for year 12 parents. We will hold the Year 11 parents' presentation on **Tuesday, October 13th** at 5.15 p.m. and Year 13 parents' presentation at 7.00 p.m. Years 8, 9 and 10 will be after half term.

The virtual parent information evening will take place on Google Meet and can be accessed by [clicking this link](#). The most straightforward way to access the Google Meet is via your son or daughter's Borlase account: ask them to sign you in and open Google Meet or Google Calendar, where the information evening will be posted. You may join from your own non-Borlase account too; you would just need to wait to be admitted. If you are not able to listen in live, the presentations will be recorded and posted on the website so that you can access them in your own time. We will include an opportunity for questions live or by email. I had hoped that we might have been in a position where meetings at some point during this term but with tighter restrictions now in place, we will continue to develop virtual opportunities to bring us together. It seems that this next phase of school experience will be a combination of live and virtual in order to keep as much live school going as we possibly can. We are very pleased to have a programme of lectures for Year 12 with speakers delivering virtually and the annual sixth form science conferences that usually take place in the Emmanuel Centre in London are available virtually. We are exploring a range of other virtual enrichment experiences for students from the lower year groups.

However, I am delighted that there are some live opportunities now going ahead. The Duke of Edinburgh walking and canoeing events are able to go ahead this half term. Although this is without the residential element we are pleased to see young people able to enjoy those live, outdoor activities. I am very grateful too for the determination of the sports department including our Directors of Rowing and Hockey for continuing to create opportunities. From October 5th we aim to have arts extra curricular running in year group formations and our academic societies for sixth form should be starting at the end of the week. School is still a vibrant place to be after such a long period of quiet. It was lovely to hear the sound of children playing the piano and trumpet today in peripatetic music

lessons; Mr Miall has worked incredibly hard to enable all these lessons to take place back at school. Add to that sound the aroma of Year 7 cooking Vichyssoise in their French lesson and Borlase starts to feel like Borlase again.

Mr Miall will also be sending out a letter relating to Student Leadership. We recognise that our senior students benefit from these opportunities but to do this, they do need to follow a strict set of protocols; he will send letters to parents of students involved in leadership.

As we approach half way through the half term, can I remind you as parents if you are booking breaks for the holiday period to be mindful of quarantine periods for so many countries now to avoid being in a position where your child has to miss school. I am sure most of you are using the NHS app but we recommend you engage with this to keep a check on any possible contacts you or your children may make. [NHS App in Schools](#)

Also FYI

The second hand shop will be open from 3.30pm to 4.30pm on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays. This will be by appointment only. Please email parents@swbgs.com and we will assign you an appointment time. We do require more adult volunteers to help so please let us know if you can help out occasionally. If you (or your child) is unable to come on a Tuesday/Wednesday after school, please email in with what you want to buy and the size you require and we can arrange for the best quality item to be left at reception for you to collect at your convenience. Please support this initiative as all proceeds go directly to the school.

Many thanks everyone,

Kay Mountfield
Headteacher

