

Dear Parent/Carer

Education has been in the media almost constantly for the last few weeks and yesterday the Government announced its plans for all students to be back in schools in September. Whilst this is great news for us all there remains some vagueness and inconsistency in the guidance published by the Department for Education. The school will not look the same as it did in March, but, equally, will not look the same as it does currently. Some things that we currently have will stay in place, such as the abundance of handwashing facilities, the one-way system around the school, limiting contact as far as possible, but in many respects we can all look forward to some normality in September. We shall work on the plans over the next couple of weeks and will keep you all informed.

### **Surveys**

Thank you to those who completed the recent survey. As ever at Carre's colleagues have shown remarkable resilience, patience and stoicism and many have gone above and beyond in supporting the students and one another, so it was nice that the parental surveys were overwhelmingly positive and recognised this, being grateful for the work that everyone has done, from setting and marking work to delivering live lessons, contacting students on a regular basis, helping students with their 'forgotten' passwords, returning money for cancelled trips, being supportive and kind when parents have contacted the school, and for bringing some semblance of normality to many members of the community. The student surveys paint a similar picture, although it was noticeable that fewer students responded than has normally been the case; maybe a case of fatigue setting in?

### **Year 7 to 9 students**

Hopefully you should have already received an email outlining the details of the in-school sessions being offered in the final week of term to boys in Years 7 to 9. We hope that the vast majority of boys will be able to attend their allocated session and that they will benefit from the opportunity to engage with both their peers and form tutors. We really look forward to seeing as many of them as possible.

### **Big Bang Digital 2020 - Tuesday 14 July**

Big Bang Digital 2020 – science, engineering & Covid-19 takes place on Tuesday 14 July and celebrates the amazing work of scientists and engineers in a pandemic.

Students can hear from the people using their skills and experience to fight Covid-19 on the frontline, to keep things moving, keep the lights on and keep food in the shops and discover how people have been supporting the environment and promoting wellbeing. Sessions include:

- The worldwide race to develop a vaccine (GSK)
- New habits to protect the planet: the environmental impact of staying at home (Plastic Oceans)
- Young talent against Covid-19 (Big Bang Competition winners)
- Designing a social distancing lanyard (RS Components)
- Rebuilding a greener future (The Environment Agency)
- Keeping the water flowing (Thames Water)
- Designing a low-cost ventilator (Imperial College London)
- Feeding the nation (Harper Adams University)

## Tackling Diversity and Inequality

Following from what I wrote recently, the Stephen Lawrence Trust has created the attached resource to help parents and professionals discuss some of the key issues in the news lately around racism and black lives matter with their children and young people. This resource briefly covers some of the key issues in the news recently with links to further resources to support conversations and learning.

## Key Workers

**All places must now be booked ahead each week.** As the school is now open for students in Years 10 and 12 we must now ask parents to book a place for their child each week in advance if they wish to take up the offer of key worker or vulnerable student provision. This applies to parents of students in any year group and whether they plan to attend all week or only on specific days. If you would like to request a place for your son for the week beginning 13 July, booking is required via [enquiries@carres.uk](mailto:enquiries@carres.uk) so that we can ensure the correct levels of staff supervision and socially distanced classroom space in advance.

**Please note that there will be no keyworker provision available to any student on Friday 17 July and this also pertains to the summer holiday.**

## Summer Support Work

Subject leaders are currently putting together packs of key activities and materials from the lockdown lessons which will be made available over the summer holiday to all students in Years 7 to 10, so that they can fill in any gaps in their work. In particular we will be directing those who have found it more challenging to engage with the work over the last three months or so to the packages in order to provide a further opportunity to narrow the gap with their peers.

## Years 11 and 13 – Public Examination Results

As a result of COVID-19, this year the public examination results will be sent out to students' *school email addresses* on the mornings of Thursday 13 August (Year 13) and Thursday 20 August (Year 11). It is, therefore, essential that the students ensure they are able to access their school email address and know their password.

As part of the testing process for the publication of the examination results, in the coming days students will receive a test email to their school email address. It is essential that they check this carefully to ensure that all the subjects for which they are entered are listed. The grades in all cases will say 'X'.

If there are any inaccuracies in terms of their personal details and subjects listed, they **MUST** let Mr Holland know **ASAP** ([jamie.holland@carres.uk](mailto:jamie.holland@carres.uk)) so that the system can be updated to ensure they receive accurate information on results day.

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will receive full details of the process for results day later this term from Diane Hickmore, Director of Sixth Form.

## **Ofqual Consultation**

For those who may be interested, yesterday Ofqual (exam board regulator) launched its consultation about next summer's exam series. This is most pertinent for students who are currently in Years 10 and 12. The consultation can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-launches-consultation-on-2021-exams-and-assessments?\\_cldee=amFtaWUuaG9sbGFuZEBjYXJyZXMudWs%3d&recipientid=contact-ca6f1936fca1e7118114e0071b6e9421-d90e84901e1b4944911b307d6f72e8cf&esid=40f9122d-4abc-ea11-a812-000d3a385a1c](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-launches-consultation-on-2021-exams-and-assessments?_cldee=amFtaWUuaG9sbGFuZEBjYXJyZXMudWs%3d&recipientid=contact-ca6f1936fca1e7118114e0071b6e9421-d90e84901e1b4944911b307d6f72e8cf&esid=40f9122d-4abc-ea11-a812-000d3a385a1c)

With consultations of this nature, normally much of what is proposed comes to fruition, but please do feel free to express your views as the quantity of responses, as much as the quality of reasoned argument, can make a difference to the original position.

## **And Finally....**

With just two weeks left of term I would like to thank you for your kind messages to both the staff and to me over the last few weeks. They have helped with morale as we work in a very different way and makes me realise what a wonderful community we have.

**N M Law**

Headteacher