

Dear Parent/Carer

The staff and students continue to show remarkable resilience at a time of uncertainty, in which different areas of the country seem to be locking down or having a two-week break. At Carre's we have one more week before everyone can have a well-earned break, with the half term holiday starting on 23 October for students as there is a staff training day on that day.

Earlier in the week I informed you that we had been notified of a positive test result of a Year 9 student at Carre's Grammar School. The student had not been in school since 30 September so we felt that there was no cause for concern, and this remains the case. The communication with the family has been excellent throughout and this helped us to make our decision, in conjunction with the Health Protection Team. It confirmed the need for open lines of communication, and should any parent have a concern we would rather that you let us know at the earliest opportunity, having followed the government advice, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they **must not** come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

You may be aware that there have been further cases in the town's other schools and this could affect Carre's students as they travel on the school buses. Having visited one of the main bus stops this week it is clear that some students continue to flout the rules regarding face coverings on the buses and put the safety of other students in danger. One of my colleagues had to remind students on a bus this week. To be clear, **all students who use school or public transport should put on face coverings before boarding the transport and keep it on for the duration of the journey.** We are in constant communication with the bus companies and will support them should they refuse to admit students onto the bus.

Public Examinations – Summer 2020

As you may have seen, the Department for Education (DfE) announced on Monday that GCSE, AS and A Level exams will go ahead next summer. They also announced that teachers and students will be given more time to prepare for them, to help make up for the disruption caused by the pandemic. Most exams will commence three weeks later than usual.

The summer exam series will start on 7 June and end on 2 July for almost all A Levels and GCSEs.

However, one GCSE English and one GCSE Maths paper will be scheduled before the summer half term, to give students affected by Covid the best chance of being able to sit at least one paper in these two qualifications. Some exams for A Level qualifications, which typically have low entry numbers, may also be scheduled before the half term break.

As a consequence of the later examination period, the results days will be later than usual. The results days will now be on:

- Tuesday 24 August for A Levels
- Friday 27 August for GCSEs.

We will release more information as this becomes available.

And finally....

As we were unable to open our doors this week for potential new students and their parents to look around the school, we have created a 'virtual tour' of Carre's which is on our website at: www.carres.uk. Please feel free to have a look!

N M Law
Headteacher