

# FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

AMBITION – CONFIDENCE – CREATIVITY – RESPECT – DETERMINATION



15 January 2021

Dear parent/carer,

We hope that you and your families are keeping well through this period of 'lockdown'. Our aim is to keep you updated with what is happening in school at the moment, our plans and expectations for remote learning and opportunities for students to develop their Character Education portfolio. We will regularly share with you this Headteacher's letter with updates and messages from all members of our Senior Leadership Team.

At the end of our second week of remote learning I am delighted to reflect on the achievements of staff and students and want to congratulate all those who are forming great habits and sticking to the scheduled lessons where possible. Forming habits is a large part of what makes successful people stand out and when this is coupled with a good plan it can lead to excellent future opportunities. You will know that one of the strengths of this school is our ability to react and adapt at these times but stay within the improvement plans that we have developed. We do this because we know that education will continue to matter long after we come out of this pandemic and we are continually striving to remove barriers to learning so that all students can taste success. Our regular contact through phone calls, letters and emails is in place to ensure no student is missed and we are pleased that so many of you are appreciative of the staff efforts to stay in touch in this way.

Before making way for the messages from my senior team I want to reiterate that as a team we will commit to ensuring that, where possible, we will keep seeking to improve, will put safeguarding at the forefront of what we do and will continue to provide the best opportunities that the situation allows. We are committed to striving for excellence because we believe this community deserves excellence. This takes determination and courage but with your support we know we can all succeed together.

## **Miss Ireland, Assistant Headteacher - Teaching and Learning**

We are very impressed to see how many of our students are engaging so well with all of their classes. It is important, however, that we reiterate pupils should be completing their work within the designated 55-minute lesson slot and not over-running this allotted time. Teachers will be monitoring and marking work submitted for that day so anything submitted later than the day it is set will not be fed back on. This is done to encourage pupils to stick to their timetable and routine and to prevent them from overdoing it.

## **Mr Meldrum, Assistant Headteacher - Raising Standards**

### **Virtual Roll Call**

We are continually looking at our offer and making improvements to ensure we provide our students with the best possible experience. With this in mind we are incredibly excited about being able to launch our virtual roll call! This will take place in the morning between 8.30-8.50am and will be hosted by your child's Head of Year. This will be a fantastic opportunity for staff and students to rebuild the sense of community and ensure students continue to stay in their successful habits.

## **Mr Buchanan, Assistant Headteacher - Curriculum and Assessments**

### **Assessments**

All students will be assessed when they return to school. It is important that students are fully aware and continue to work as hard as they can to get the most out of their learning. Following the normal times of the school day and asking teachers if students are unsure are key ingredients

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for success. To clarify Y7-9 should follow a new timetable for this period and Y10 and 11 are continuing to follow their normal timetable.

For Year 11, these next few weeks are crucial. All work which is done now will have a direct impact on students' opportunities for the future. For GCSE exams, we will keep you updated when we have more information about the process for awarding grades. There are still some exams which can go ahead when students return to school. For example, exam boards have advised that many BTEC subject exams can go ahead before the end of May. Students should consult their subject teacher if they are unsure about their own subject.

The main message to all students, whether they are doing GCSE or BTEC qualifications, is that their hard work will be recognised and rewarded with qualifications at the end of this process. It is of the utmost importance that students maintain ambition in their learning throughout this time. Teachers are looking to build a portfolio of evidence to assist their decision making so each lesson submission is valuable to help inform them.

## Character Education

There are a range of excellent opportunities available for students to continue to build their Character. Students should look on their whole year group classrooms. There are also leadership qualifications such as the SSAT for Y10 and Y11. Our values underpin all that we do at Five Acres and we are delighted that so many of our students are taking the opportunity to demonstrate determination and creativity in particular, at this time.

## Key Worker School

Students and staff have been working hard in the key worker school to give our students a better chance of success. We are hugely grateful to all parents for being respectful of the eligibility process so that students only attend *where necessary*. Please see the link to register for places for the week commencing 25 January 2021 (this form closes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 9am)

<https://forms.gle/SATUiMUfVwE9HaJB8>

## Mr Ogden, Deputy Headteacher - Safeguarding and Child Protection Lead

During the partial closure of school, we have a legal responsibility to monitor the safeguarding and health and well-being of our students. In order for us to do this we have allocated each student to a member of staff who will be making at least weekly contact, and in some cases daily contact - please can you support us to achieve this by regularly asking your child to check their emails, by checking your emails and checking the voicemail of your landline and/or mobile phones. If you miss a call could you please contact the member of staff who made the call at the earliest opportunity. For students we cannot reach, we will need to ask for a home visit to be carried out. Many thanks for your continued support.

We hope that you have found all of this information valuable, and we wish you a brilliant weekend.

Kind regards,

Simon Phelps  
Headteacher

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School of  
**CHARACTER**

Headteacher Simon Phelps  
Five Acres Coleford Gloucestershire GL16 7QW  
An Academy in The Greenshaw Learning Trust: Company no. 7633694  
tel: 01594 832263 email: [admin@5acreshighschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@5acreshighschool.co.uk)

