



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

AMBITION – CONFIDENCE – CREATIVITY – RESPECT – DETERMINATION



12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a week it has been and what a delight to have students back in school and enjoying a world-class education. Your efforts during the lockdown period have been much appreciated by staff and we are delighted with the way that students have approached their studies this week.

We recognise that some things have been challenging on the return to school for some people; routines around homework, ensuring equipment and uniform are up to scratch are just some examples. However, we have noticed that students have thrived this week due to the high expectations and level of challenge we have been able to offer. Lessons have been brilliant! Seeing students soaking up information and engaging in their deliberate practice tasks reminds us what it is all about. Watching students interact at social times, enjoying their exercise during PE lessons (developing fitness will be a key area for us going forward) and throwing themselves into singing during Choir for Years 7-9 (Travis and Scarlett in Year 8 were a particular treat to listen to) reminds us that there is plenty to look forward to.

This week we have also been completing the majority of the three LFD tests we were asked to make available by the Government. Whilst it seemed inevitable that this may cause some disruption, your children have taken this in their stride. We were of course sad to report one positive case but this rate is much lower than the current national rates. Students have dealt excellently with the need to go through these tests and we are looking forward to giving you details next week of how the programme of home testing will take place.

One of the highlights of my week was being informed that 900 Character Education badges have been given to students this year so far. When we are being told that there are so many restrictions on life it is fantastic to know that we have a community around us that doesn't accept being limited but thrives on finding new ways to do things. Your encouragement and support for children earning their badges will leave a life-long imprint on them and we hope that many students will continue to access all of the opportunities available to them to experience new things.

Returning to school has been a long time coming and we are appreciating it as much as we can. I personally want to thank you for the support you have shown my colleagues and myself and thank you to all who followed up my offer last week to nominate staff who had done a particularly brilliant job in lockdown. I am happy to keep that going and will always take time to pass on your thanks and congratulations. In much the same way that students have enjoyed receiving postcards acknowledging their achievements staff appreciate being acknowledged too. This week we launched a similar system to students where staff can be nominated for a 'value' award. Our first winners were Miss Hughan (Ambition), Mrs Harrison (Confidence), Mrs Blyth (Creativity), Miss Cavill (Determination), Mr French (Respect) and Mr Robb (Teaching and Learning). Please feel free to contribute to this by emailing myself any nominations you wish to.

As we approach the weekend, and ever closer to further reductions in the restrictions we currently face, I hope that it will be filled with rest and relaxation for all of the mothers out there and luck to all of us who are trying to get presents organised in these challenging times.

Kind regards,

Simon Phelps, Headteacher

#BEMOREFIVE



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CHARACTER

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