



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

AMBITION – CONFIDENCE – CREATIVITY – RESPECT – DETERMINATION



1 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the Easter Holidays I wanted to write and let you know what a pleasure it has been to see that our fantastic students have settled back in to our good routines, are engaged in their learning and are ambitious to do well. This, I am confident, will be replicated after the Easter break; I am confident we can make quick progress next term in ensuring all students have a better chance of success.

Years 7-10 students undertook their assessments last week and this week has given Y11 the opportunity to take their mini-assessments. We have been delighted with the focus students are showing, and you will receive further details and results from those assessments following the Easter break. Please be reminded that for Year 11 these assessments are only one form of evidence collection for students' final grades, the full range of evidence across their two years of study will be considered. For our Year 9 students, it is time for them to start the GCSE subject option process, the Pathways booklet and information outlining the next steps have been sent out this week.

Our Character Education offer is going from strength to strength, and we have awarded 900 Character Education badges so far this year, which is a fantastic achievement for our students who continue to demonstrate our school values in all that they do. There are so many to celebrate so please keep an eye on our social media pages. It was particularly pleasing to award Brad and Nya their shields for creativity recently. Seeing year 11's being able to refer to their achievements when writing applications is fantastic. The opportunities for students to earn their Character Education badges are growing too. For example, volunteers are being sought to assist with stewarding of the Diabetic Eye Clinic at the Main Place in Coleford, weekdays from 7-16 April, 9am-5pm. Volunteer shifts are for 2 hours and will involve greeting patients, ensuring they complete their details for the Track and Trace register and showing them to the relevant waiting area. For more information contact Janet Marrott on 01594 836469 or email info@main-place.org.uk. This would make ideal volunteering experience for those students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme or for Character Education.

We are also looking forward to the start of an exciting mix of academies and societies after the Easter holidays. Students have been signing up during DEAR time with their tutors. We encourage all of our students to sign up and get involved as experience and learning beyond the classroom is a hugely important aspect of development for all students and these experiences can often contribute to future academic success.

An unforeseen consequence of the pandemic has been the amount of time we have all spent on small screens. Since returning on the 8 March, we have seen an increase in online incidents being reported into school, mostly unpleasant social media posts and risk-taking internet searches. During school we do not allow our students to use their phones mostly to protect them from the temptations and pitfalls of social media. We cannot control or monitor what students do once they go home for the day but we will always want to be made aware so we can monitor any possible consequences in school. We strongly advise anyone who may be concerned or worried to contact the local police. We have found them to be very supportive and they do look into all incidents. As a school we will always co-operate with the police and we take our lead from their safeguarding team. During the upcoming Easter holiday please find time to talk to your child about their social

#BEMOREFIVE



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CHARACTER

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media use, their internet searches and about the possible consequences of making poor choices online.

Following the completion of in-school LFD testing and the move to students testing at home, students have adapted superbly and accepted the measures we have been required to put in place. We are hoping that they will ease at some point next term but for now I extend my thanks to you for continuing to support your children through the at-home test phase to help us ensure the safety of our school community. Please keep reporting these tests in to school and to the national online portal.

Please can we ask that where a student receives a positive test result for Coronavirus after 1 April 2021 that you inform the school using this email address only – sphelps@5acreshighschool.co.uk. Should any positive cases be reported I will have the responsibility to track and trace students through our normal systems and ask students to self-isolate. This reporting system will be in place until April 7 2021 and emails will be checked between the hours of 7.30am and 9am.

I have been asked to share with you a message from Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, which can be viewed via this link <https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/03/26/a-letter-to-young-people-from-gavin-williamson-mp-secretary-of-state-for-education/>

There is no doubt that with restrictions easing slowly, Easter this year will feel a little different again. Easter is a time where Christians reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus. It is not lost on me that we can all identify a little closer this year with the idea of sacrifice, often in ways that we would never have imagined. As we look forward to a new school term and hopefully towards some return to the freedoms we so often have taken for granted I wish you a happy Easter time that is filled with rest, time for family and friends and anticipation for what lies ahead. We look forward to seeing all students back and eager to learn, fully equipped and with pristine uniform on Tuesday April 20 (Week B).

Kind regards,



Simon Phelps
Headteacher