



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
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Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

31 March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. As we come to the end of term 4, I wanted to thank you for your continued support in these everchanging times. It has been a busy term with the return to school, testing, GCSE and A level assessment preparation, remote parents' evenings, options processes, red nose day, and the adjustment to learning face to face again.

Amongst all of this I have been incredibly proud of how Fitzharrys' students have stepped up to the challenges put before them. Their resilience, positivity, engagement, and enthusiasm have all been fantastic. This is evident in our community newsletter which is sent out today and gives a flavour of what has been happening in school. Great credit must also go to the Fitzharrys staff who have maintained high standards for our young people, whilst also taking great care in helping them adjust to the rapid changes in their lives.

COVID-19 testing and results

Following the successful testing in school we are now in the home testing phase. The in-school testing process ran brilliantly, and we are grateful to all those staff and volunteers who put themselves forward to carry out this important task.

Home testing is working well for both staff and students. All students have now been provided with enough lateral flow testing kits for the holiday. Once a test is completed please ensure that the result is registered on the government website using the following link: www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result Please also register the result with the school using this link: <http://tiny.cc/FitzHomeTestRESULTS> The registering of results should happen whether it is a positive or negative result.

If a home test is positive, then a PCR test should be booked through the following link <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> If the PCR comes back as positive then it is essential that self-isolation is adhered to, for both the person testing positive and their household.

If a student tests positive in the first 6 days of the holiday, up to and including Tuesday 6th April, then you must notify the school. This should only be when symptoms or a positive test occur within 2 days of a student being at school. If the symptoms or positive test occur more than 2 days since your child was in school, you do not need to contact us.

Contact should be made by emailing the details to covid.reporting@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk This email address will be checked twice a day by members of the leadership team. If a positive test comes through, then we will carry out a track and trace based on possible transmission in school. We will then contact families of students affected and ask them to self-isolate for 10 days.

We do not want to be in a position where we must make these phone calls. We also do not want to be dealing with more cases when we return for term 5. Therefore, please do remind your child about the current rules and regulations to restrict the spread of COVID-19: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>



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We appreciate the impact of the restrictions; however, we want to keep our community safe. We also do not want to have further disruption to students' learning, especially with GCSE and A level assessments coming up in term 5.

COVID-19 risk assessment

On Friday we received the latest updated government guidance for in school measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission. There are a few changes including updates around school trips, competitive fixtures, and transport. We will update our risk assessment over the Easter break and let you know of any changes at the start of term 5. We are expecting a clarification around rules for masks in school before our return on Monday 19th April. As soon as we receive this information, we will contact you via email, the website and through social media.

Wellbeing

During the pandemic, the wellbeing of all our community is at the forefront of our planning and thinking. We are working in partnership with other organisations to offer support and guidance to those at Fitzharrys. I have attached a leaflet from Abingdon School in Partnership, which directs different sections of our school to possible support. Please do look through this carefully. If you feel your child needs further support, then please get in touch with their tutor. I have also attached a flyer for an event focussing on 'Emotional Wellbeing for You and Your Family'.

Letter from the Secretary of State for Education

I have been asked to pass on a letter to all students from the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson. This can be accessed through the following link: <https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/03/26/a-letter-to-young-people-from-gavin-williamson-mp-secretary-of-state-for-education/>

Catering

Thank you for your patience with the catering handover. The last 10 days has given our catering team time to set up new systems, develop menus and ensure a smooth handover from our previous supplier. As you can see from the attached flyer it is an exciting time for our catering service. Students have been at the forefront of the changes, with suggestions for improvements and input into menus. During term 5 a full service will be in place with payment through the card system. Details of this can be found in the attached leaflet. Please remember we will not accept cash payment when we return after Easter.

Governance

Fitzharrys continues to look to expand our Governing body and would welcome additional parent governors. If you are interested in getting involved, then please email the Clerk to the Governors at the following address: Clerk@abingdonlearningtrust.org

Uniform

A reminder that from the start of term 5 students will be allowed to wear their summer uniform, which includes their summer polo shirts. If students continue to wear a shirt and tie, they will still be expected to wear their blazer as part of the normal uniform.

I hope that you and your families have a restful and safe Easter break. In particular, I wish year 11 and year 13 students and their families the best with their preparations for the forthcoming assessments. We look forward to welcoming all students back in school on Monday 19th April.

Yours sincerely



Will Speke
Head of School



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