

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear families

This time last week I had just been informed that we had our first covid positive case in year 12 and what a week it has been since. I know it is now clear to all of the students just how transmissible the covid delta variant is and on their return to school on Monday it will be vital that they maintain social distancing and follow precautions. Masks are required to be worn in classrooms and communal areas and students not following this guidance in social spaces will be asked to go outside. Testing will be available twice a week in school for year 12 and there are home testing kits in my office that students can collect at any time.

Exams this week have gone well and it was certainly an interesting experience for us all. Attendance this week was our highest figure of the year, and the students were praised by the invigilation team for their attitude. With so many students self-isolating, today will be a self-study EPQ day in preparation for the final presentation and no student should come into school. They have all been advised of this. To offer support, there are two sessions on Teams this morning that I have asked all students to attend.

The periods of isolation offer a chance for students to develop their super-curricular activities preparation as they think about the UCAS process. By super-curricular, I am referring to ways that students can demonstrate their passion for the subject they are applying for such as examples of wider reading and lectures they have attended. Universities are not interested whether applicants played football for the school in year 9 or have Bronze DofE. They want students who are committed to the courses they are applying for and who can show passion beyond the examination syllabus.

Like the students, I am very much looking forward to ending my self-isolation period and returning to some version of normality on Monday and I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Nicholas Griffith