

25 September 2020

Dear parents

It has been a pleasure getting to know our new year 12 students and I hope that everyone is settling in well. I have sent the students the message below which I hope may provide useful information for you.

Best wishes
NW Griffith

Dear year 12

Thank you for a good week and I hope that the tests went well. Next Friday will be the last day for any subject changes. Please do not rush into a decision and any moves will have to come with support from your parents.

As we have now seen, there is a clear need to separate the year 12 and 13 groups into different areas and you will understand that this means only one group can use the Godwyn House building and its facilities. Until half term this will be year 12 - this is because you are in there now. We will swap this after half-term and year 13 will be in there until Christmas. Year 13 will be based in Selwyn's and will have access to the library. This will mean that the library will no longer be available to you between 9.30 and 3.15 each day. This is not what anyone wants but covid has far more serious implications to be concerned about so we appreciate your patience.

A reminder that at the moment, you only need to be in school for timetabled lessons. That means if your first lesson is at 12.00 then you don't need to come in until then. You don't need to sign in if you go directly to a lesson as your lesson mark will count for the register.

When you are in school please try to remember the simple advice of the guidance we want everybody to remember: wash your hands regularly, use a face covering when social distancing is not possible and try to keep your distance from those not in your household. As you know, it is now mandatory for all students to wear a face covering when on any corridor and inside the dining hall until you start to eat. Please make sure you wear a covering when you are outside a classroom waiting to go in.

Mr Leeder has provided me with the information copied below about a scheme run by Cambridge University and if you are interested then please come and see him. Please be realistic. The grades to get into Cambridge will be A*AA. If you have a GCSE average point score of less than 7.5 these grades are extremely unlikely and in such a competitive market, you would be not using one of your five university applications sensibly. The application deadline is 15th November.

Every year hundreds of students in Year 12 or equivalent have come to Cambridge University to 'shadow' a current undergraduate and experience life in Cambridge. We are now looking for students with little or no history of University in their family to take part in the 2021 scheme, a four-week online programme that will encompass everything from studying, societies and applying to Cambridge.

This will be the twenty-first year of the Cambridge SU Shadowing Scheme and to ensure it is successful we need your help to promote the scheme to students who are eligible. Do you know of a student who is academically capable but unsure about Cambridge? A student who feels they might not fit in at a top University? Or a student who hasn't considered Cambridge before? The Scheme is designed to give these students the information, support and confidence they need to make the best decision for them. Please help us reach every student who would benefit from a place on the scheme by sharing the information we have provided.

On Monday during the X periods 2 and 3 you will all be taking an online assessment test called Alis which is an adaptive baseline assessment, that provides information to help schools identify students strengths and weaknesses, and see how they are likely to perform at A Level. Alis value-added data helps us understand the progress students are making. You do not need to worry about this test or prepare. Please go to period 2 X lesson as normal and your class teacher will take you to a computer room when they are ready for us.

In addition to welcoming back year 13, another thing I am looking forward to is giving my knees a rest from cycling. As I mentioned last week, my wife and I are taking part in a sponsored challenge during September, attempting to cycle 1000km between us to raise funds for cancer research. We have 80km each left to go until we reach the 1000km finish line and your support has helped keep me motivated for which I am very grateful.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/allyson-and-nicholas>

Have a good weekend and stay safe

Mr Griffith