
Principal's Newsletter

25 June 2021

Dear Parents,

We are experiencing the reality of Covid's delta variant with several classes self-isolating, hybrid teaching models, and a return of mask wearing. Mrs Cassidy has also written to Y7-10 parents this week about the reintroduction of voluntary on-site testing for pupils next week – you can read a copy of the letter [here](#). Parents of pupils in Years 7-10 who wish their child to be tested at school, will need to complete the consent form ([click here](#) to access) by Sunday 27 June. There is something sombre about this as we were experiencing the positive momentum of gliding into summer with increasing freedom. But we must all do our part. I am [linking you](#) to some guidance to remind you of what you should do.

An example of this frustration is the postponed leavers' dinner which had been so carefully timed to coincide with anticipated relaxations. The Prep School Prizegiving was to be an in-person event. It seems odd to pine for these "set pieces" of school life, but there is now an enthusiasm for carol services, speech nights, founders' days even among the more jaded pupils.

We did manage to get through an exam week where many had to take them at home, and others were in school. This was a triumph of logistics. There was also the life and sound of Ms Jones and Ms Clark's World Music and Hispanic Day in Prep which has led to some amazing expressions of musical and sartorial enthusiasm. This is a case of pictures summing up the excitement of the day much better than any words.





Equally impressive is the Ten Tonne Challenge, our textile recycling scheme, and the activity behind it. We are determined to collect the weight of textiles that we have set as our challenge and even self-isolating pupils are getting their parents to bring bags to the gates of the school.

Mrs Doran continues despite all obstacles to provide amazing opportunities to our pupils. Her "mock" G7, I am prepared to bet, contained more sense than the Cornwall version and I look forward to receiving the final communique (read more [here](#)). Pupils have also responded to her invitation by achieving finalist places in every year group of the Young Leaders' Award. You can read about it [here](#).

Major Ridley has also received a certificate from the Duke of Edinburgh award informing us that our DofE participants spent 1521 hours volunteering between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 during the pandemic and the social value of these hours is calculated at

£6920.55. I am not sure how social value is calculated but the number of hours is certainly impressive.

There is some very good news on our estate. The government are funding 85% of a project to replace the original Prep School roof from 1929. This will mean a grant of about £450k. An amazing transformation is underway in the Holland block where Mr Peel and other members of the estates team are making steady progress in redecorating the building. Other projects are now being lined up for the summer.

I would like to refer you once again to my email of earlier this week which sets out some of the changes we are making for 2021-2022. You can read the relevant materials [here](#). At our last parent information evening of this academic year on Wednesday 30 June at 5.30pm, we will be answering questions you may have about the proposals and further informing you about our teaching and learning plans for next year.

The parking pilot is on its way. We have obtained all the materials we need to try to create a safer parking situation on Queens Drive. This will be attempted from Monday of next week when some of the self-isolating classes should begin to return to school.

[LC Press](#), the publishing platform we started in the middle of the pandemic has been edited by a number of young people over the last year or so. The current editor will be hanging up her boots and I thought it might be the sort of thing which a parent might find interesting. LC Press seeks through blog posts, articles, books, and a podcast, to highlight the role of imagination in education, to serve as a place where alternatives to the factory model of education can be explored. Let me know if you are interested.

The PTA have had to postpone the nearly new uniform sale scheduled for Saturday 3 July due to Covid measures. A new date for the event will be advertised soon.

May I wish you a Covid-free and sunny weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal