

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a good week. It is strange at school today, normally we have the hall full of bags and coaches on site for the ski trips to depart. There is a real excitement around school and I enjoy going onto the coaches to wish them an enjoyable visit. I am looking forward to being able to do this again in the future, hopefully it will not be long before we can offer these experiences.

I wanted to thank you for your support over this half term, particularly with online learning. We know that at times it is hard with students working remotely but your support has meant that we are able to continue to support students and provide learning for them. After half term we will continue to provide online learning for the students, we are expecting the Government to give greater clarity to the plans on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. I will keep you updated with our response to these when we get back after half term.

I hope you have a restful half term. It is important that students get time to relax and take the opportunity to have a break from computer screens. We have provided a reading list on the website if students want to take advantage of some time to read over half term and don't forget that students need to keep a track of their kilometres as part of the Road to the Euros house challenge.

### **Year 9 Parents Evening**

Thank you to all Year 9 parents for your time on Wednesday evening for parents' consultation, I have had really positive feedback concerning the interaction with the teachers and the use of the electronic system. Thank you to the parents who have fed back to us, your comments have been most appreciated.

### **Road to Euro 2021**

Another impressive week sees us reach 9104.32km in total, which when you consider we have only been going three weeks I think is phenomenal. Well done to everyone who has taken part so far. Year 7 have really been driving us forward with Year 10 closely on their heels, but all year groups have made a significant contribution to the distance. We have just visited the Puskas Arena in Hungary and are now on the way to the Arena Nationala in Romania. Once we have visited Bucharest we begin the long hike to Russia, I will update you when we return as to our progress. The staff at school have also taken up the challenge, however we are currently lagging well behind the rest of the school in Spain. I have set them the target to address this, so we wait and see if they can make a comeback during half term.

### **Celebration of "La Chandeleur"**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February was the celebration of "La Chandeleur" in France, known as Candlemas in the religious calendar in the UK. The French make a lot of pancakes to eat in celebration on the day. Many classes last Tuesday were set to make pancakes ("crêpe" for a sweet pancake or "galette" for a savoury one) as a break from being on screen all day. The results were fantastic, with some very professional pancakes being cooked and a huge variety of fillings added. There will be prizes on return to school, but special mention must go to:

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Year 7  | Jonah Scott, Oscar Mignacca                |
| Year 8  | Sam Keenan, Harrison Stalley, Alex Buckley |
| Year 9  | Archie Rann, Ellis Bates, Otis de Botton   |
| Year 10 | Elliott King, Peter Holmes, Luke Grimshaw  |

### **Assistance with Career Talks required**

Students in Year 13 are getting ever closer to starting their post-18 journey after Hale. Of those looking to secure work or an apprenticeship, some students would really like to find out more about certain fields of work before they commit themselves. Ideally these students would complete a couple of days of work shadowing or even work experience to find out what the areas of work they are interested in entail. With the current restrictions this is proving to be somewhat of a challenge. A telephone call with someone in the line of work would also be very useful. If there are any parents who might be able to offer support to these students as they make their applications in areas such as electrician work, engineering, finance, marketing, construction etc. please do get in touch with Mrs Beacom [bm@richardhale.co.uk](mailto:bm@richardhale.co.uk). We look forward to hearing from you and putting you in touch with our students at this crucial stage of their school career.

### **Critical Worker Survey**

A reminder that if you are a critical worker and need your son to attend school from the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, can you please complete the survey using this link, <https://forms.gle/R1S4tnHvjM732rw7>. The deadline for completion is Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 12pm so we are able to plan supervision for the week after half term.

Students who attend will need to wear full school uniform and bring a pair of trainers to use at lunchtime. There are no food facilities on site and so students will need to supply their own snack and lunch. Students will also need hand sanitiser and a face covering.

Please note that the school will be shut for all students during half term (week beginning the 15<sup>th</sup> February) and will be closed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February for staff inset.

If your son has attended school this week and develops symptoms of COVID-19 during half term, can you please contact us using the [coronavirus@richardhale.co.uk](mailto:coronavirus@richardhale.co.uk) email address. This is important so we can contact trace over half term.

If you have not yet provided permission for the lateral flow tests and wish for your child to have one when they return after half term, can I ask that you complete the online form so that we can administer the tests to students in school in the week beginning the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

You will have received an email about permission for lateral flow testing for COVID-19. Please take time to read through the email and attachments and complete the form giving permission. This is in anticipation that we may be required to do some Asymptomatic testing before students are able to return to school. We will provide further details about any testing arrangements once we have the details about the return to school.

### **Progress Reports/Parents' Evening**

Progress Reports for Years 12 and 13 are now available on the Parent Portal. If you have any problems accessing the system please email [online@richardhale.co.uk](mailto:online@richardhale.co.uk). A reminder that Year 13 booking opens today for parents' evening and Year 12 booking opens on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Details have been sent to parents with logon information and how to book.

### **New COVID-19 Webinar for Young People**

Please follow this link for a free young persons webinar that your child might be interested in attending.

[Hertfordshire County Council | New COVID-19 webinar for young people](#)

### **COVID-19 updates**

The latest COVID-19 updates are available using this link <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

### **Hertford Youth Space – Parent / Carer Questionnaire**

Please see below a letter we have been asked to send to parents.

*Hello Parent / Carer,  
Hoping you're well and coping with lockdown 3.0.*

*My name's Victoria, and I am a parent from Hertford, with a daughter who is soon to join year seven.*

*I have a strong belief that COVID-19 is impacting our children's physical social skills. With the world heavily moving to online relationships being the norm, I feel there is a growing need to enable our community kids to build solid local relationships and to offer them the opportunity to learn new life skills that are not provided at school.*

*You may not be aware, but the government has cut funding by £70m for youth services across the UK, with that, and the permanent closure of popular kids hang out spots, including local cinemas. I'm considering opening a privatised community space for children aged 11 - 16 in Hertford. This space will offer our youth and future community leaders, a safe place to hang out with friends after school. It will offer parents a place for their children to feel safe when the world returns to normal, with parents traveling for work and returning late in the evening.*

*I've shared these questionnaires with all local senior schools in a bid to understand the potential take-up before agreeing on a space.*

*The Den Hertford - Would be open from 15:00 - 21:00 every day (Including weekends) and will offer teenagers a safe space to hang out, brush up on their schoolwork (with support), exercise their passions, and most importantly build friendship groups.*

*With a background in children's entertainment and marketing, I have devised an event calendar to engage with this age group, I would really appreciate it if you could complete the following 3-minute [Feedback Form](#) and share this via your parent network for replies.*

*For specific questions related to this email, I welcome your response to [victoria@thedenhertford.com](mailto:victoria@thedenhertford.com). Wishing you and your family a safe lockdown.*

Ian Hawkins  
**Headteacher**

**February 2021 Calendar**

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> | Half Term Week            |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>                           | Inset Day – School Closed |
| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>                         | Year 13 Parents Evening   |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>                           | Extended Tutor Time       |