

5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a good week. This week I have had the pleasure of sending out lots of emails for students congratulating them on work they have produced. It is great to see brilliant work and how students have engaged with this. Thank you again for your support with your children with their online learning, we really appreciate this in helping us continue to support the students learning.

Road to the Euros

The students are really rising to this challenge! On Tuesday I was impressed with the distance the students have achieved, but they have continued throughout the week and have now done 4,707 km. This means we have visited 4 stadiums, having just left Amsterdam and are now on the way to Copenhagen. A good push this weekend should see us past the Amsterdam Arena and firmly on the way to Allianz Arena in Germany.

Year 7 and 10 are leading the way with Year 8 only slightly behind at this early stage. Hale lead the Houses with Wallace and Page only slightly behind, although Kinman, Croft and Cowper are not that far away. All have made considerable totals so far, so keep walking, running and cycling remember every step helps us reach our goal of getting to Azerbaijan and the Baku Olympic Stadium.

JustTalk young people's COVID-19 webinar – 17th February 2021

Following the success of the young people's COVID-19 webinar last year, Public Health Hertfordshire have arranged another follow up session. Hertfordshire's 11-19 year olds are encouraged to take part in this free event on Wednesday 17th February, 11:30am-12:30pm.

This is an ideal opportunity for young people to listen to reliable information from the panel members below, who will be talking about some of the anxieties many people are experiencing and answering questions and concerns raised by young people living in Hertfordshire:

- **Councillor Tim Hutchings** - Cabinet Member for Public Health & Prevention
- **Councillor Terry Douris** - Cabinet Member for Education, Libraries and Localism
- **Dr Alison Frater** - Public Health Consultant
- **Liz Shapland** - Deputy Education Services Director (Secondary) Herts for Learning
- **Tania Rawle** - Head of School Standards and Accountability, Education, Children's Services

Young people can submit questions ahead of the time, by sending into JustTalk@hertfordshire.gov.uk. There will also be a chat function, so questions can be submitted live during the webinar. There is no need to book or pre-register, simply visit www.justtalkherts.org/coronaviruswebinar on the day.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week has seen all year groups presented with information regarding 'Children's Mental Health Week'. Information included a presentation on 'expressing yourself'.

For full details of the week, advice and resources for independent learning please visit: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

This week was also a good opportunity to remind all pupils that we have a Well-Being Google Classroom (code to join: nxq4th). Here you can find many different links, advice, resources, podcasts and much more that are all freely available via the internet. This google classroom brings it all together in order to support well-being amongst students.

Safer Internet Day: Tuesday 9th February

Next week will see all year groups given information regarding this event. These will include a presentation, quiz and top tips to stay safe online. There is also a live event taking place at 1.30pm in conjunction with Liverpool Football Club. The link to this is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WS06hrRvOLU>

For more information on Safer Internet Day please visit the following link:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2021>

Year 11 post 16 interviews

It has been really good to be able to speak to a number of our Year 11 students and discuss their current plans for post 16 and also to find out how they are getting on with their work in the current climate. The positivity the boys showed was really encouraging and it was pleasing to be able to discuss the work being undertaken at home. These interviews will continue next week so that we have contacted each individual student by half-term.

Free School Meals

The vouchers that were sent to eligible parents and carers this week cover the period up to half term. The vouchers for the half term holiday revert to the Hertfordshire County Council system (the same one used for the Christmas holiday) and details will be emailed next week.

Half Term and Inset Day

A reminder that the school will be closed for all students from Friday 12th February at 3.20 until Monday 22nd February 2021. Online learning will resume after half term on Tuesday 23rd February and the school will re-open for critical worker students on the same day. Hopefully by the time we return after February half term we will have more detail as to the Government's plans for the re-opening of schools from the 8th March. We will keep you updated with any information that we receive on this.

COVID-19 updates

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

Ian Hawkins

Headteacher

February 2021 Calendar

Wednesday 10 th	Year 9 Parents Evening
Friday 12 th	School finishes at 3.20pm
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th	Half Term Week
Monday 22 nd	Inset Day – School Closed
Thursday 25 th	Year 13 Parents Evening
Friday 26 th	Extended Tutor Time