



THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

Hampton Dene Road, Tupsley, Hereford HR1 1UU

Tel: 01432 347500

Enquiries: head@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Martin Henton

MNH/AHW
19th March 2021

Dear Parents & carers,

It has been heart-warming this week walking around the school as students and staff are back into the rhythm of learning. In lessons there is a very calm and focused approach to learning and it is clear that everybody is enjoying being together and learning face-to-face and not from a screen. It is also great to see extra-curricular activities and clubs resume so quickly and the noise of students enjoying themselves both at lunchtime and after the school bell has gone at the end of the day.

Year 11 students have actively engaged in the assessments in preparation for awarding the GCSE grades and have been thoroughly professional in their approach to them. We have been really impressed with how well they are focused on their studies and trying the best that they can.

As you know, this week we had a positive result from a home COVID Lateral Flow Test (LFT). With the updated guidance from the government and the experience we have learned since September, we were able to isolate the close contacts very quickly, which was only twenty-four students in the same year group. This was effective in minimising the disruption to the learning of other students who weren't close contacts. We were delighted this morning, to hear that a confirmatory PCR COVID test for the student was returned as negative. The current guidance we have, is that a follow up negative PCR test, following a positive LFT test, over rules it and means the individual and all close contacts can then return to school. Phone calls were made to the families of all students concerned first thing this morning to make the quickest response that we could.

This experience confirms the importance of carrying out the LFT home testing for each student. I would like to encourage you to continue to test your child each Sunday evening (or Monday morning before school) and each Wednesday evening (or Thursday before school). If a void test is done, please do complete another one and log results in both the NHS and school websites. Thank you for your support in this to help keep our community safe.

In an ever-eventful week, we also received a visit from Ofsted on Thursday this week for a section 8 short inspection to look at our learning provision under the current circumstances of COVID and our recent full return to school. This was a Monitoring visit and does not give us the opportunity for our current judgement to be changed. I am pleased to report it was a very positive experience and as soon

Always Faithful with Christ

as we are allowed to share the official letter from Ofsted, which will give a more detailed report of their findings, I will share it with you. The timeframe for publishing this in the public domain is approximately thirty days. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you so much for all of the positive feedback provided in the parent/carer survey from everyone that participated. When we have received and processed the findings, I will write to you again to discuss these in more detail and what further actions we intend to take as part of our journey of development and improvement.

Lastly, can I remind parents/carers of year 10 students to book appointments for the virtual parent consultation evening on Thursday 22nd April. The link has already been sent to you if you have not already done so.

Thank you for all of your support in ensuring your child is following all our school procedures and I wish you an enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,



Martin Henton
Headteacher