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Principal: Mrs Anne Davis

Heath Lane
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1st April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of this term I am writing to confirm arrangements for a few activities over the break and beyond. Can I please ask that you discuss the content of this letter with your child.

Reporting COVID cases over the break

Please inform us via Google Form (click [here](#)) of a positive case for a student at DSTC if either symptoms or a positive home LFT test occurred within 2 days of them being at school. We will then look at where they sit and who would have been a close contact and inform them to self isolate for 10 days. Any positive LFT test needs to be followed up by a PCR test.

Year 11 & 13 have been invited by specific departments for some targeted intervention and / or the opportunity to sit mock exams missed by either illness or isolation. Please see the separate document emailed by Mr Archer (Vice Principal) any problems please contact Mr Archer (ricky.archer@dstc.kent.sch.uk).

Return to school on 15th April

Contrary to the published dates for the summer term please note that ALL students are expected to return on the 15th April 2021. If this poses an issue for you please contact the relevant Pastoral Leader. We are keen to have all students on site back in classes during this time to support the learning recovery work we are doing.

Students are encouraged to continue testing twice weekly over the break. Students **must** take a Covid test before returning for the summer term. The test must be conducted "either the night before, or morning of the first day back" in order to identify and isolate any potential cases. Anyone who previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

Masks

These are currently compulsory in and around the site until we receive further guidance.

Entry to site in mornings

We continue to only be able to open from 8.30am. To support us with maintaining social distancing and minimising transmission of COVID please ensure that students arrive within a few minutes of their allocated times:



Year 7 - 08.30

Year 8 - 08.40

Year 9 - 08.50

Year 10 - 08.45

Year 11 - 08.35

Post 16 - 08.30-08.40 (Please note: Post 16 students are allowed to arrive for their first lesson of the day, and then leave after their last lesson.)

Uniform

I understand it has been difficult for parents and carers to obtain new school uniforms throughout the pandemic lockdown. With retail outlets now opening from 12th April this will allow new uniform items to be purchased. Please note that after the Easter Break we do expect students to be back in full uniform, this includes proper blazers and school shoes.

Jewellery and Nail Varnish

I am saddened by the number of students who continue to flout the rules and wear jewellery to school. This has never been acceptable and all students know this. Students will no longer just be asked to remove it, as this is not working in reducing the number of students wearing jewellery, they simply put it back on later. We will now confiscate items to be returned at the end of the week - staff will be given envelopes that students will put items into so there is no contact with the jewellery by staff. Parents will also be informed by Pastoral Leaders of any repeat offenders.

Students are not allowed to wear any nail varnish at all. Nails should be of a short length. Students will be asked to remove any nail varnish by Pastoral Leaders.

Mobile Phone Usage

Mobile phones are able to be used sensibly and respectfully outside of the building only. This rule has not changed. Mobile phone use will only be allowed:

- For Year 10 / 11 at break and lunchtime in the Canteen
- If a teacher specifically gives permission to use the mobile for a learning purpose (e.g. for a dance routine in Dance lessons).

Students are not allowed to record or take photos of each other in uniform or on the DSTC site.

Mobile phones should not be used to listen to music in lessons unless for a specific purpose, approved by the teacher.

Lanyards

All students have been given a colour coded DSTC lanyard which they are expected to wear as this enables us to ensure they are in the correct bubbles at a glance. Please ensure your daughter/son has this ready for the return.

Finally, I do hope you enjoy your Easter break.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Davis', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Anne Davis
Principal