



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Friday 26th November 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well during this time. Thank you for all your ongoing support for the school. Please find below some information and updates.

Visit of Rushanara Ali MP

We were delighted to welcome Rushanara Ali, our local MP, to visit the school on Friday 26th November. Sixth Form students who study A-level Politics took part in a question and answer session, which gave them a fascinating insight into the work of a politician. The students involved showed an impressive level of academic and political knowledge and we were proud of how well they conducted themselves during this event.

Ipsos Mori visit

Year 10 students had the privilege of visiting world-renowned market research firm Ipsos Mori this week. They were intrigued by the world of market research and very much enjoyed having the opportunity to visit a professional work setting and learn more about the organisation. Our partners at Ipsos Mori are great supporters of the school and we are grateful to them for the contribution they are making to ensure our students have access to a range of exciting opportunities.

Inspirational Societies

Year 10 students have recently had the privilege of taking part in a range of exciting trips as part of the trust's Inspirational Societies initiative. This includes a talk from a documentary film-maker and a visit to Mansion House in the City of London. We are excited about the other upcoming trips and visits and looking forward to seeing students take part in an enthusiastic way.

Covid-19

I have written to all parents separately today to inform you about three confirmed Covid-19 cases reported to us this week. There is no evidence at present that these cases have been transmitted within the school and we do not currently have any intention of introducing additional measures. I will inform you immediately if this situation changes. Please remind students to take relevant precautions, including washing hands regularly and ensuring any tissues are disposed of in a bin.



Mock exam results

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will be given their mock exam results over the next two weeks. I am sure that some students will be very happy with their results and that the grades they achieve will be a reflection on their hard work in preparation for these exams. For those students who are disappointed with their results, please encourage them to see this as an opportunity to understand where they need to improve, so that they are better prepared for the next set of exams.

Year 11 Parent information session Thursday 2nd December 3.30-4.30pm

A separate letter has been sent the parents of Year 11 students, inviting you to an information event on Thursday 2nd December between 3.30 and 4.30pm. This event will start with an explanation of the school curriculum and some advice about supporting students during the next six months as they prepare for their GCSE exams. At 4pm, Year 11 students will join the session for a discussion with teachers about their grades and how they can improve next time.

Year 11 and Year 13 parents evening – Thursday 9th December 4.30-6.30pm

I am looking forward to seeing in person the parents of students in Year 11 and Year 13 on the afternoon of Thursday 9th December. If you are unable to attend this important event for any reason, please contact your child's Head of House to let them know. This will be an opportunity for parents to meet with key teachers to discuss students' achievement and progress. Parents will also be given students' mock exam grades and predicted grades and advice about how to support students to prepare for their examinations.

Open Evening – Thursday 20th January

The second Open Evening of the year will take place on Thursday 20th January. Please encourage current Year 11 students to attend and please share the date with any friends or family who you know are interested in joining the school next year.

COVID-19 Control Measures

Dealing with possible or confirmed cases of COVID 19

Students and staff should not come into school if they have symptoms of COVID 19 or if they have had a positive test result. Anyone who has symptoms is advised to take a PCR test and to self-isolate until they have the results. If the result is negative, they can return to school when they feel well enough. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days, following the government guidelines.



If anyone develops COVID-19 symptoms while in school, they will be sent home immediately, recommended to take a PCR test and to self-isolate until they receive the results. Students do not need to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all students to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Contact tracing

Schools are no longer required to carry out contact tracing. In the event of a confirmed case at school, NHS Track and Trace will work with the staff member, student and/or parent/carer to identify close contacts.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive COVID case, or if they live in a household with a COVID case, providing one of the following:

- They are under 18
- They are over 18 and fully vaccinated
- They are in an approved COVID 19 trial
- They are not able to vaccinate for medical reasons

If not required to self-isolate, an individual who is a close contact of a confirmed case will be advised to take a PCR test, but should continue to attend school in the meantime. If the result is negative, they should continue to attend school; if the result is positive, they should immediately self-isolate and notify the school.

Thank you for all your ongoing support for the school, which is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

Principal