

1st April 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

It has been fantastic to welcome back all our students to site this last month. Finally, this year, the school is busy again and buzzing with learning activity. The students themselves too are clearly glad to be back, mixing with their friends, playing, enjoying time in the fresh air and engaging with learning face to face once again with teaching staff.

Our current priority for Y11 and Y13, is working towards a position where we will be able to award *Centre Assessed Grades* to these students at the end of the summer term. We have been working collaboratively with the other FPMAT secondary schools to outline protocol so that we can ensure that robust moderation and standardisation are in place. Scrutiny will be undertaken within and between the MAT schools, by the Local Governing Body and also by the Local Authority. The last few weeks has seen the creation of a calendar of assessment plans and opportunities for students to practice particular skills in each subject, and be afforded the opportunity to then demonstrate their learning and understanding through testing and assessment. I do hope that you will support them and work with us to ensure that they achieve outcomes that reflect their continued hard work – both during lockdown and since their return.

We have begun to re-establish routines for learning and behaviour that impact positively on the atmosphere around the school. High standards of uniform, punctuality and attendance are paramount for our learning community. From time to time, understandably, some students have struggled with the return to school, for a variety of reasons and we have continued to work with their families to support them productively.

Enormous thanks are due to our fantastic team of COVID testers, who completed many hundreds of tests during the first few weeks back (and have been undertaking tests daily since the start of January!). This enabled a really swift and safe, secure start to our return. They completed significant training to be able to take on these *public health roles* to keep our school community safe. Thank you to you, our parents and carers, too, for supporting students with regular testing at home in the last week or so. All of these things have made a significant contribution to reducing viral spread. I must ask that you continue to report *positive test results* both tomorrow (Good Friday) and Saturday for us to complete contact tracing for the remainder of this term. The email address for this remains the same: covid@whitleyacademy.com.

The Summer Term starts on Monday 19th April and we are already looking forward to having everyone back again after the break. We have some exciting things planned! It is also timely to remind you that once non-essential retail opens, any replacement uniform you require will be much easier to source. Cat Balou <https://www.catballou.co.uk/> are now an additional stockist of our blazers and ties and will also stock our *new design sports' kit*, which should be available from September 2021.

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Easter is upon us – and so is hopefully the promise of some warmer weather – although it certainly won't be this weekend! In wishing you a Happy Easter, I also want to thank you for all your support this term, I know how much it is appreciated by the staff who are all absolutely committed to helping every child in our school community *be the best that they can be*.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K. Wright
Headteacher

