



14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to thank all of you for your support over the past few days following the closure of the school. The safety of our students and staff is paramount and whilst it was frustrating to have to close the site for students, it was essential. I cannot stress how hard the team, led by Mrs Newman has worked to ensure that the building was ready to be safely reopened on Thursday.

Sadly, the impact of the storm also forced us to delay our production, which Mrs Lane, Mrs Osbourne Lewis and the cast have invested so much time in over the past few months. I am delighted that the performances will take place on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February and we do still have a number of tickets left if you would like to come and support!

Our community minded students have been visiting local primaries to help with computer skills and literacy, and Ms Anderson's Sports Leader initiative has been hugely popular with local, primary school students who are being mentored in sport by Cox Green students.

Mr Burrows and Mrs Clark ran yet another amazing trip to Auschwitz for Year 11 History students and Year 10 participated in Norden Farm's Nicholas Winton event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Selected History students from Year 11 also met the Duke of Wessex to talk about their trip to Poland. Trips to the Rifles Museum and Oxford University were also great successes.

We are in awe of the work produced for the History Department Tudor Models and World War II competitions: students have gone above and beyond with their creativity and we have seen cakes, clay, card and even a working enigma machine!

Our Anti Bullying and Wellbeing groups continue to run with great success and Mr Edwards continues to be impressed with the work ethic and commitment of his Russell Group students.

Abbie Jones has excelled once again in her cross-country racing, qualifying for the Berkshire Senior Girls team at English Schools in March. Year 8 girls made a huge impact against other local schools in the recent Netball tournament. Year 9 girls Netball team continue to dominate the local league, and our Boys Football teams continue to be a force to be reckoned with across all years. Aimee Munt has performed exceptionally well for her Athletics club in the Sportshall season. Huge congratulations should also go to Katie Crowhurst who has been selected for the British team in the 2020 World Para Swimming Open European Championships, in Madeira in May 2020, and Year 10 student Toby Gillard, winner of the Junior Strength Academy Sports Personality of the Year. Our Sports Academy National Squad are currently top of the league and we wish them well for the rest of the season.

I was thrilled to hear that Year 11 student Abby Harris made such an impression with her work within the SATRO Alternative Curriculum work that she was nominated for an award, coming 2<sup>nd</sup> out of over 400 students. In addition, she was offered an apprenticeship based on her work ethic and passion in class.

Sadly we said goodbye this week to Mr Paul Loudon who has done a fabulous job as a Governor and more recently Chair of Governors for over 15 years. He has invested so much of his time into the school and we cannot thank him enough for all he has done. Mrs WenLan Richards and Mr Peter Thorn have now taken over as joint chairs. They have been part of the Governing body for many years and offer a wealth of experience and knowledge which will be invaluable.

We have been inundated with applications for the Sixth Form and Sports Academy for September 2020 and interviews will be taking place when we return after half term! Year 8 enjoyed a productive and informative “Taster Day” ahead of their option selection this month.

Colin Philips our wonderful Site Assistant will be relocating over half term. Mrs Buckley, Head of English has now left and we look forward to welcoming Mrs Jafferi as Associate Learning Leader in English after Easter. In the interim, Ms Shannon Gavel will be joining the English team.

We are looking to roll out a new parent engagement app to improve communication. Initially we will be trialling this with Year 11. More details will follow next term!

Please do ensure that your children are equipped with the correct items of uniform, equipment and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.

I look forward to seeing students back at school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

With kind regards

**Frances Walsh**  
**Head Teacher**

Dates for the Diary:

- Mon 24<sup>th</sup> February Students return to school
- Tues 25<sup>th</sup> February Rescheduled Performance – Beauty and The Beast
- Weds 26<sup>th</sup> February Rescheduled Performance – Beauty and The Beast
- Weds 26<sup>th</sup> February Open Evening for Sports Academy
- Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> February Rescheduled Performance – Beauty and The Beast
- Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> March Science Physics Week
- Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March Year 11 Parents Evening
- Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> March Year 12 and 13 Parents Evening
- Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March Year 9 Parents Evening
- Weds 1<sup>st</sup> April Year 7+8 Earth Day
- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> April Term Ends