



**Kemnal
Technology
College**

18 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

UPDATE: WEEK ENDING 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

As we end another week in these very strange times I must commend to you the maturity of our students who have been really sensible with the wearing of face coverings and how they now just automatically do it without being reminded. I think there may be a slight competition going on between the Heads of Year and their determination to ensure their year group stand out amongst the rest.

Parents Evening

As we look forward the College has had to adapt new ways of how we communicate with parents in terms of "Parent Evenings" as we are not allowed to invite parents into school for the moment. Obviously for us parental engagement is key and I truly believe that a strong relationship with home and school is only beneficial to any child. So as we adapt to this new climate I now update you on how the College will hold our "Parents Evenings". So instead of face to face meetings, we are proposing holding a week for each year group so that your child's subject teachers can contact you via email/phone at scheduled times to discuss your child's progress. You will receive further information from your child's Head of Year as to when this takes place.

Y11's Extra lessons and "Catch-Up"

We are more than aware this pandemic caused a loss of learning to a number of students. We are addressing and identifying those gaps across all year groups but as a College one of our main priorities is how we ensure that our Y11's are GCSE ready next summer. We are fortunate that our staffing body puts students at all times first and have agreed to give up their free time to put on extra lessons after school in the core subjects. This is starting from next Monday. We also have planned that from Saturday 10 October 2020 teachers will host specific subject intervention as well. Whilst I appreciate that some Y11's may feel that this is too much of a "school overload" we are very mindful that students need this "catch up" and we just want to ensure that missing such a lot of time away from school will not be detrimental to our Y11's. I sincerely hope that parents feel the same way and know that we only want our students to succeed.

Rest of the School "Catch Up"

We have put a schedule together for the rest of the year groups to take part in GL Assessments. This will identify areas of strength and weakness in all subjects. We believe that having this baseline will give us a clearer picture of where students are currently placed and we can look at putting strategies in for specific intervention. As part of our College Catch-Up across the school, we have launched our Accelerated Reading Programme. Students are aware that as the Library is not in operation they are required to bring in a book

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of their choosing to read during Form Time. I am a passionate believer that any “reading is learning” and we will be engaging with students to encourage them to see that reading is a pleasurable experience.

Pastoral Wellbeing Programme

Whilst lockdown for many students was a great delight of not being in school etc. we are aware that there was a negative impact as well. Therefore, from next week, all students will be taking part in a “Pastoral Wellbeing Programme”. This programme has been put together to build confidence, resilience and to restore self-esteem in young people after lock down. We are very conscious on how the lockdown may have affected some students’ mental health and wellbeing and believe it paramount that we also address the negative side of lockdown.

Whilst we sincerely hope that lockdown is a thing of the past we are mindful that with the “R” number rising we have to be ready to provide remote education to our students if directed. Students have been reminded (practically in every lesson and in Form Time) of their log-ins and how they will access our learning platforms (namely google classrooms). I remind parents that there is “booklet” on our website that shows students how to access google classrooms. We are also in the process of putting together a “step by step” guide for students to put in their planners so if we have to put in place a year group lockdown, a partial school lockdown or a whole school lockdown students will know how to access their learning tools.

Again, with parents not being able to be welcomed in school I do feel that keeping all lines of communication open is essential and as parents I want you to still feel part of the school community. As part of my plan to ensure that you feel that way it is my intention to update you regularly and keep you updated on what is going on in school.

I ask that you contact your child’s Form Tutor or Head of Year if you have any concerns and ask that you and your family remain safe and well.

As always, thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Christian Cavanagh
EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER