

21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It is not easy to sum up the challenges and successes of this year. Whilst this is an academic year that none of us would have expected or would like to repeat, we leave today still feeling remarkably proud of our students and everything they have achieved. Their resilience, adaptability to change and optimism in the face of disruption has been outstanding. Our young people have been supported throughout by a wonderfully creative and dedicated team of staff who end this term proud of the successes and endlessly optimistic for everything we will accomplish next year.

Just before we all begin the well-earned summer break, I wanted to outline some details regarding reports and to share some key information to support the start of Autumn term in September.

### **End of Year Reports**

Yesterday our students received their End of Year reports. We wrote to you separately with a guide which explains the report in more detail. When students opened their reports yesterday there were lots of smiles and students very proud of their achievements. It was lovely to see students planning with the help of their tutor how they were going to improve in individual subjects. Our only goal in reporting progress this way is to ensure that students are informed and able to take charge of their learning. A copy of this report has been emailed home today so if your child "lost" the report or you suspect it is somewhere at the bottom of their bag please look out for our email!

### **HAF programme**

Over the summer GCC have set up a month-long programme of activities. Alongside this they will be issuing food vouchers in the first and last week of the holiday.

Please see the link below for more information and with instructions for how to sign up <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf/>.

### **COVID measures and testing**

From September there is new guidance for schools regarding COVID-19 – this particularly affects testing and isolation periods. This is simply a summary, and we will communicate in more detail nearer the start of term.

- The requirement to keep students in discrete bubbles is removed from the Autumn term



- The rules about getting a test, and remaining at home, if you have symptoms are unchanged
- Any child identified as a “close contact” of a positive case will no longer need to isolate but they will instead be asked to go and get a PCR test
- Face masks are no longer required to be worn by students or staff, but some may still wish to do so. However, face masks are still required on buses.
- All students returning to school in the Autumn are to have two lateral flow tests, 3-5 days apart (we have sent you a message separately if your decision around consent has changed)

### **Start of Autumn term**

In line with guidance around LFD testing we will be operating a staggered start in September to ensure we can test all of our students on return to school in a safe and calm way. Please note, these plans are subject to change should the guidance be amended.

Year 7 (current Year 6) and Year 11 (current Year 10) summer school – 23 <sup>rd</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> August
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September – INSET day for all staff (no students on site)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September – Year 7 and 11 return to school for testing then join lessons
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September – Year 9 and 10 return for testing then join Year 7 and 11 in lessons
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September – Year 8 return for testing then join the rest of school in lessons

We have some staff moving on at the end of this academic year – I would like to thank them all for everything they have done and wish them all the best for the future. Colleagues leaving this term are K Gillard, S Vale, T Bennett and R Lewis. Whilst we are sad to see these colleagues leave, we are excited that they are going on to take their next steps. In addition, please note that Mrs E Smith, Deputy Headteacher, will be known as Miss E Johnson from September.

Finally, I would like to thank the students, staff, parents and wider community for pulling together this year in the hardest of circumstances. I wish you all a very restful, and well earned, summer break.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Brand**





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Richard Brand: Headteacher

## Headteacher

[RIB/TW – end of year letter-210721](#)



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