



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw near to the end of a very peculiar term I wanted the opportunity to thank you and your children. As we know, the last term has seen a number of different challenges but we can be really proud of how our school community has risen to the mark.

This term students have settled back into school really well. Many had to adapt from the relative isolation of remote learning to attending school on a daily basis, surrounded by hundreds of other people. I particularly want to thank students (and parents) for the way in which they have adapted so sensibly to wearing face masks in lessons and undertaking regular lateral flow tests twice a week. This was all done without complaint and in their own good humour. I would also like to thank both parents and teachers for the support they have given children. The sensitivity and patience adults have shown towards the students at this difficult time has been truly remarkable and is one of the reasons students have been able to settle back into school life so quickly.

In addition, my gratitude goes to parents and carers for your patience with the lateral flow testing process. As we know, students testing themselves twice a week is a really important way to limit infections and transmission within the school. It is important any lateral flow positive case is followed up with a PCR test. I understand that it can be frustrating when we ask students to isolate due to a positive lateral flow test and then return after a negative PCR test, however it is important that we continue to follow this government guidance. I want to thank you for your patience with this process.

It is important students continue to test themselves throughout the Easter holidays and that results are communicated to us through the normal Microsoft Forms.

### **Face Coverings**

The latest Government guidance for schools can be found here [schools coronavirus operational guidance](#). This document states that face coverings in classrooms “will continue to be in place until Easter.”

We understand that an announcement will be made over the Easter holiday, possibly as part of a briefing by the Prime Minister on Easter Monday, about whether or not this recommendation will be lifted. Once we hear, I will communicate with you before we return to school.



## Uniform and Shoes

As you know, due to essential shops being shut, including our uniform shop, we have been slightly more relaxed about uniform expectations this term. However, on April 12<sup>th</sup> non-essential shops are due to re-open. Therefore, on return after the Easter Holiday we are expecting all students to be in full school uniform. This includes black, leather polishable shoes. I would also like to draw your attention to the exact wording in the Uniform policy about trousers, it states;

*'Plain Black only; full length, to at least the top of the shoe, plain material, classic tailored style with no extreme flares. Leggings, footless tights, drain pipes, cords, jeans of any sort, cropped trousers or shorts are not allowed.'*

Any students not in the correct uniform will be asked to go to the PBSC until it is rectified. If you feel particular financial hardship at the moment and are unable to support your child with appropriate uniform, please do contact us so we can support you. Our uniform policy can be found [here](#).

## Year 11 and Post 16 revision programme

We are delighted to be running such a comprehensive revision programme for our older students over the holiday. With 'Window 2' approaching, it is really important that students are as prepared as they can be for the forthcoming mock period. Please do encourage your child to sign up and attend as many sessions as possible.

## Free School Meal money and Additional Payment

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), you will receive funding that covers their daily food allowance for the Easter holiday, plus an additional amount. All schools have received funding from the Government's winter fuel and food scheme to distribute to FSM families as they wish. We have therefore divided this between all FSM families and this additional amount is included with your school meal Easter funding.

## Year 11 and Post 16 Period 6

During mock periods Period 6 will not run in the same format. This is to allow students time to revise for their forthcoming exams. However, to ensure the staggered finish which will prevent more than one-year group exiting the gates at once, students in Post 16 and Year 11 will finish at 3:15pm during their mock period. Once Year 11 and Year 13 leave, we will be looking at starting a Period 6 with Year 10 students as well as maintaining the Year 12 provision.

## Activities Week

I am delighted to let you know that we are currently planning a very exciting Activities Week! Parents of some of the older students will know that we launched our first activities week in the summer of 2019



and it was incredibly successful. Altogether we ran over 70 different trips and activities that took place throughout the week. Unfortunately, due to lockdown last year we were unable to repeat it. However, this year, with restrictions set to lift we are intending running an activities week during the last week of the summer term.

One of the unique things about JOG is the huge number of trips and activities that we offer students. I firmly believe that these experiences enhance the lives of our students and are an important part of our wider curriculum and cultural capital programme. Restrictions have meant this offer has been drastically reduced over the last year, so I am particularly pleased that students will be able to finish this academic year on a real high. Details of all the activities and trips will be sent out early next term

Finally, I hope you all have a wonderful relaxing holiday. I am certainly looking forward to the fine weather and seeing people in the garden! For a few Year 13 students, they will return on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April, however, this is an inset day so we look forward to seeing **all students return to school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April.**

Many thanks,

Paul Skipp  
Headteacher

