

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

22 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Re: End of Spring Term**

We began welcoming our students back two weeks ago today and I would like to say a huge thank you for all the support you have given your children, as they have been absolutely fantastic! The behaviour and adherence to our Covid safety rules has been exemplary on the whole and that would not have happened without your guidance. It has been an absolute pleasure having students back and they have got straight back into the routines of learning.

For many reasons this return from lockdown has been very different to last time. Students are already familiar with our systems which means it has been much less of an adjustment, but also we were able to be much more prepared for the lockdown despite the very late announcement. This meant that our staff and our students had a very different educational experience and have for the most part kept up with their learning.

I wrote to you a few weeks ago as Ofsted had visited us and today they published their monitoring report which can be found here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50161207>. You will see from Ofsted's findings that they were very pleased with the improvements we have made as a school in the last twelve months and specifically how we have tackled education during this pandemic. It has been a very difficult twelve months for all of us, but we have not allowed the challenges caused by the pandemic to halt our drive towards excellence. As a school community we should be very proud of what we have achieved and very excited about what we can achieve in the next year as hopefully the shadow of the pandemic recedes.

During the last few months we have also transitioned to a new catering company. With the lockdown and the furloughing of various staff, this has been more challenging for our catering team than we anticipated so I thank you for your patience while we dealt with the transition to new suppliers and the transition to the Halal Authority Board as well as the new software for the tills. We think we are just about there now and certainly on Friday things seemed to run smoothly.

For those of you with children in examination years, I know that you will be anxious to hear our plans for awarding grades this year. We have been working extremely hard on this for the last few weeks and we are on track to share our plans with you and your children this Friday. This will ensure that everyone knows what assessments they will have and when before the break. We have been put in a very difficult position as a school as we have been asked to replace the well-established and resourced examination system with no extra staff, finances or time. We believe we have a fair and open system that will reward our students for all the work they have put in during their time with us. I would like to urge caution though, as some of the promised guidance from the government has yet to be published so we may need to make some adjustments over the coming weeks.

Finally, we are transitioning to home testing for all students from this week. Students who have testing consent already will be sent home with their testing kits this week for you to complete with them this week and over the Easter break. If you receive a positive test, you will need to book your child in for a PCR test at a test centre to confirm the result and isolate until you get that result through. Please continue to let the school know if your child tests positive to allow us to contact trace those who may have been in contact.

I hope that you have a lovely two week break and that you are able to start returning to a more normal life in the coming months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Vernon', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

**Mr K. Vernon**  
**Head Teacher**