

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students

### Updates, news and encouragement!

Good evening everyone!

I hope this letter has found its way to you; I have used parent emails for the first time. I was going to ask you to let me know if you did not get it...but that doesn't make much sense if you're reading it!

We are four weeks into this lockdown; hopefully the last lockdown. Earlier this week I had confirmation from the DfE that schools will be fully closed during the week of half term (week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February). That is really important news for us all; it will be an opportunity to switch off completely for a week. There is no solid news about a return date other than 'not before Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March' but we are promised two weeks' notice so I will let you know as soon as I know.

The school will reopen to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The DfE is very clear that schools should remain open to the children of critical workers to enable them to go to work and help the collective national effort to beat this virus. Paulet will always remain open to students in those circumstances. I do however ask all parents to remember that this should be a last resort position. The DfE is also very clear that students should remain at home, during the lockdown, unless that is not possible. Thank you so much to all of you who are supporting us in this. Remember our first priority is to our students and their families; we are here should you need support with anything – just ask!

I am planning to do ZOOM assemblies next week to all year groups; parents are very welcome to take part. I will send out the ZOOM link 10 minutes prior to the start, please make a note of the times:

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February @ 1pm – Years 7 and 8 together  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February @ 1pm – Year 10 and 11 together  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February @ 1.30pm – Year 9  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February @ 1pm – 6<sup>th</sup> Form

Please keep an eye on your emails over the next two weeks as we will be rolling out progress reports using our new parent engagement platform – Go4Schools. We are also introducing an online Parents' Evening platform over the coming weeks; Year 9 will be first as their GCSE option process is fast approaching.

And so, to the encouragement...

I am overwhelmed and quite simply stunned at the amount of brilliant work you are all doing! I know it is hard; I know sometimes you get stuck, get lost or get behind. My message is simple... **all you can do is your best!** That goes for parents as well as students; your wellbeing is more important than schoolwork – look after yourselves and each other. When we are all back together we'll pick ourselves up and fly like we did in September.

There is lots to look forward to like half term; World Book Day; Easter (chocolate); summer; sports day; seeing each other again. Keep smiling; here if you need us!

Kind Regards



Ian McArthur  
Headteacher  
#WEAREPAULET

