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27th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Summer Term, Half Term 1 Update

I hope this letter finds you and your families well? As always, this half term has been a busy one with students settling back into the routines of being in the academy. It has been an even busier one for our Year 11 students who have dealt amazingly well with all the challenges they have had to face this last 12 months. They have approached the last half term of their Year 11 courses with a real focus and determination and we hope that the system will allow them to be credited with the grades that they deserve. The students have been brilliant in settling back into the academy this half term in general and it is sometimes hard to think that a few months ago we were working remotely and away from everyone else.

- **Year Group Bubble Update:** As you will be aware, the academy has been working in year group bubbles this academic year. The result of which is that the students have had the vast majority of lessons in the same set of rooms all year and we have limited the areas of the academy they can use. Although there are still concerns about coronavirus, and rightly so, but with infection rates significantly lower, the Government road map still on course and guidance from the Department for Education and our Trust, ATT, evolving, we have made the decision to adjust some of our COVID protocols as we go into the second half of the summer term. The main change we will be making is that students will be able to move to lessons in the dedicated faculty areas of the academy. Whilst we have been doing this in a limited capacity we want the students to get back to having the full academic experience. This change will allow our students to have full access to all the facilities and equipment that they would normally have to support their learning. To aid this change we will also be introducing a one-way system for students to follow in the academy. We believe this will help students move more efficiently between lessons as well as limit any points of congestion in our narrower corridors. We are planning to retain the current timings of the day and the split breaks and lunchtimes with dedicated indoor and outdoor spaces for the foreseeable future. We will review the impact of the changes alongside the national COVID situation at the start of July to decide if we can take the next steps in opening up the academy.

These changes will come into effect from Monday 14th June and we will use the first week back after half term to support younger students in making this transition.

- **COVID Testing:** The guidance around COVID testing for staff and students in schools and academies has not been updated in recent weeks and so we continue to issue testing kits to the students who have consented to being tested. As we have previously advised, tests should be carried out twice a week, 3 to 5 days apart. Whilst there is guidance around registering test results with the NHS, please can I ask you to contact the academy should your child test positive so that we can take the appropriate steps that we are required to take.

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Determined to be...

'the best that we can be'

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- **Free School Meals:** As part of the ongoing support from Norfolk County Council, students who are entitled to a free school meals, will receive a voucher for half term. These vouchers can be claimed through the Edenred website in the same way you would have done during the February Half Term and at Easter.
- **National Schools Sports Week 21st June – 25th June:** Just to bring to your attention that shortly after half term we will be recognising national schools sports week in the academy through a series of events run by our PE team. There has been much written over the last few months about the impact of the lockdowns on both physical and mental health of young people, and exercise has been seen as a priority as the country starts to return to more normal times. To promote the importance of exercise in maintaining healthy physical and mental well-being we will running various events during the week that help to get students to think about the positive impact that exercise and sport can have on them. We will send further information out about the events after half term.
- **Summer Half Term 2 Dates and Key Dates:** The academy calendar has been decimated this year by the impact of COVID but as national restrictions ease, we intend to run some of the events that we have not been able to earlier on in the year as well as some that would normally take place in the summer term. This will include rescheduling of parent's evenings as well as, sports day, transition days and one or two other events we are currently looking at. Just to bring to your attention, three key dates. We return after the May Half Term on Monday 7th June and the end of term is Tuesday 20th July. We have also had scheduled on the calendar that Monday 5th July would be a Staff PD Day and this will continue as planned and so students will not need to attend the academy on this day.

We will send further updates about key events after half term.

Finally, thank you for all your continued support. Whilst with some cautious optimism, I hope that the coming months are focussed on our students and their progress and learning, rather than dealing with more COVID fall out, I know there will be other challenges that we have face. However, with support from you and the academy, I am confident that our students have the skills and resilience to overcome these challenges and continue to progress and aspire to the best that they can be.

Have a good half term break!

Kind regards.



Mr Woodhouse
Principal