

## Next Week, After Half Term - Week 2

### Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach half-term, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the significant achievements of the past half-term and to extend my thanks to the whole school community as we navigate our own 'roadmap' out of restrictions back to a level of normality.

What has perhaps been most noticeable (and incredible) is the way everyone returned after the Easter break and just 'got into the groove' of school life. The lateral flow testing had moved to home (thank you to everyone for making this work) and staff and students continued with the business of school life - underscoring just how adaptable, flexible and resilient our students are - and also how skilled our staff are at responding to new challenges.

For our Year 11 and 13 students, commitment, hard work and motivation were the key attributes they needed - and have displayed in abundance - as they have approached the GCSE/A level and VTQ assessment process. The amount of work produced over the last term has been phenomenal and it is hard to explain just how hard the staff have worked setting, marking and moderating this work to ensure students have had every opportunity to produce evidence of their achievement. Their collective effort has been nothing short of heroic; the leavers' day celebrations for Year 11 and Year 13 have been particularly well deserved this year.

This term has seen smiles, quite literally, return to the classroom, with the requirement to wear face coverings lifted. I know that students have welcomed this - not least because it has allowed for better communication and more natural discussion - but also because it feels more 'normal.' We have also seen a welcome return to our students involved in sporting activities and competitions and we look forward to supporting all our sportspeople over the next half-term.

A couple of housekeeping notices from me - please make sure you take time to review the guidance from HCC and Public Health and remind your son/daughter about the importance of following guidelines to remain safe. We will be sending out a test reminder about ensuring lateral flow tests are conducted on Sunday 6 June.

And finally, whilst I never thought 'normal' would be a state I craved, or a word used so frequently, as we take these tentative steps back to a more 'typical' school experience, let's hope the weather becomes a little more 'normal' and you enjoy some rest and relaxation this half-term.

Best wishes

James Shapland

## Key Dates

- 31 May: Half Term
- 7 June: Y10 Assessment Week
- 10 June: Y12 Gold DofE Expedition
- 14 June: Y11 Bronze DofE Expedition
- 21 June: Y12 Assessments

## Reporting Covid Results during Half Term

Please continue to report positive, negative and void Lateral Flow Test results to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school via the [online form](#). If the result of the test is unclear (void) you should do another test.

## Festival of School Arts



Look out for a selection of artwork and poetry compiled for today's Festival of School & College Arts, via our Twitter Feed:

[@Ashlyns\\_School](#)



## Policies

The school's Privacy Notices have been updated and can be found [here](#)

## Changes after half term

From after half term, we will be:

- **Returning to coats being removed in the school building** (teachers will have discretion to permit coats to be put back on if temperatures in the classroom are particularly cold due to ventilation - but this won't be the norm!)
- **Slowly refining the one-way system** (with 300+ students no longer being in school) to allow some more direct routes across site, whilst retaining core elements of one-way traffic
- **Returning to 5-minute movement time between lessons** to reflect this:

08:35 - 08:50	Registration / Tutor Time / Assembly
08:50 - 08:55	Movement time
08:55 - 09:55	Lesson 1
09:55 - 10:00	Movement time
10:00 - 11:00	Lesson 2
11:00 - 11:20	Break
11:20 - 12:20	Lesson 3
12:20 - 12:25	Movement time
12:25 - 13:25	Lesson 4
13:25 - 14:10	Lunch
14:15 - 15:20	Registration / Lesson 5

We will also be trialling **reinstating student monitors** (runners), with clear protocols in place.

## Student Achievement

Milo P has received a high commendation at this year's Dacorum edition of The National Youth Photography Competition. The theme was 'Wild Nature' and his successful entry is currently being exhibited at The Open Door Gallery in Berkhamsted.

## Year 10 Assessments (Monday 04 - Thursday 07 June)

A reminder that Year 10 students have been given hard copies of their exams timetable (which is also accessible via Insight), and go directly to Chapel each morning with the correct exam equipment to practise exam procedures, including:

- Clear pencil case with stationery
- Scientific calculator (see [here](#))
- A transparent water bottle

Please note that students are prohibited from bringing smart watches into school.

Students should bring revision materials for period 5 each day. A reminder for parents can be found at this link: [Y10 Assessment Week Letter to Parents](#)

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Well done to the many Year 10 students who completed their training and practice expedition last weekend, and thank you to all those who volunteered along the way!

## House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
31258	32928	31221	32103
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
28/05/2021			

## Attendance

Forms with the highest attendance week ending 21 May:

7H1, 7C2 99.4%  
8H2 98.3%  
9H2 97.9%  
10R1 97.9%  
11B1 99.2%

Well done all!

## Staff Vacancies

We are looking for a site assistant for a 1-year post; if you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the team please see the [school website](#) for full details.

All other vacancies can be found [here](#).

## Finance

Did you know that you can set up email alerts to let you know when your child's lunch account is running low? Log onto ParentPay and follow: Communication / Alert Settings / Balance Alerts - then enter the threshold balance and tick EMAIL.

## Skate Park Petition

Dacorum Youth Council have set up a petition to get better funding for the local skateparks to make them safer and bigger with more bins, provision of free water and better lighting. Click [here](#) to sign.

## County League Athletics

Well done to the students who competed in a tough meet at Watford this week. With several changes to the team, lots of students went the extra mile to compete in an event outside of their specialism. The U14 Boys came 4th, U14 Girls 5th, U16 Boy' 4th and U16 Girls 5th. Notable performances from Toby B, Phoebe G, David A and Natalie C who won their events.



## DSPL Courses Available

[Raise Resilience 6 session online course.](#)

[CREATE-Covid Response programme from Dacorum Family Services.](#)

[CAMHS online education programme.](#)

## News from The ASA

### BAGS 2 SCHOOL

We will be collecting your bags of donations (clothing, shoes and household linens etc) after half term - please drop them off at **30 Oakwood, Berkhamsted HP4 3NQ**. Bags for this purpose can be obtained from school reception, but your own bags are also accepted. Our target is 50 bags, so why not use the half term to have a sort out?

### UNIFORM

We will be holding a Good as New uniform sale on **Monday 28 June from 4 to 7pm**. Items are sold at half the price of brand new and all proceeds go to the ASA. We would welcome all uniform and PE kit donations after half term. These can be dropped off at school, or at **30 Oakwood, Berkhamsted HP4 3NQ**. Year 11s collecting their hoodies on 8 June will be able to drop off uniform to the ASA at the same time.

Please ensure all donations are washed (no shirts please unless brand new), name labels removed, and if possible, mended.

## Ashlyns Orienteering

Yesterday saw the first running of the Ashlyns Orienteering House Cup. Students took part from Years 7 and 8 and all returned safe, if out-of-breath, from the 2km of running. Year 7 was hotly contested with 22 runners, won in an astonishing time of just under 9 minutes by Ruby V and Mollie R, with Leuan L in second place and Noah B in third. Special mention to Lara C and team for completing the course in a very creditable 17.10. The longer Year 8 race was won by Jake A, Daniel A and Jasper TP in a time of 14.25, with Esme and Meg in second and Faith and Iris in third place. Well done to all the participants in what was a highly competitive event!



## Dr Kathy Weston - Tooled Up Education



Did you know.....as you are a 'Tooled Up' parent in a 'Tooled Up School', you can access any of Dr Weston's public webinars for free? Here are a couple that you can register for right now:

[What Does it Mean to be a 'Good Dad' in 2021?](#), 17th June, 8-9pm. To celebrate Father's Day, Dr Weston has prepared a unique talk on fatherhood. Register using booking code TooledUp1706

Check out Dr Weston's webinar on GCSE Science and parental strategies for cultivating curiosity whilst getting children 'exam-ready'. Ideal for parents of children in Years 9 or 10.

[Dr Kathy Weston and Lucy Haseler: How to Navigate Science GCSEs](#), 21 June, 8-9pm. Register for free using booking code: TooledUp2106

In the meantime, check out our science resources that will empower you to ask questions that will inspire thinking! Take a look at [Learning Through Intrigue](#) and [20 Questions for Curious Teens](#).

School pin: 4989

## **Hertfordshire County Council have asked us to share the following update with you ahead of half-term.**

Thank you all so much for playing your part and helping to keep case rates of Covid-19 low in Hertfordshire. During half-term, and as restrictions ease more generally, it's more important than ever that we follow current guidance to help keep each other safe and our nurseries, schools and colleges free from outbreaks.

Please do not send children back into education if they are sick or feel unwell. If you or children have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Reminder of some of the latest guidance from 17 May:

- 6 people, or two households (each household can include a support bubble, if eligible) can now meet indoors and up to 30 people can gather outside
- If you are meeting with family and friends, the government is asking that you personally consider the risks associated with COVID-19 when deciding on things like wearing face coverings and social distancing for both you and your children
- Restaurants, pubs and cafes can reopen and so can indoor entertainment and attractions such as cinemas, bowling alleys, museums and children's indoor play areas. All of these services will have COVID-secure measures in place, please encourage your children to follow the rules when out and about

Travelling within the UK: If you do go away, you should aim to do so safely. For instance, one of our close neighbours, Bedford, has a high number of cases and people are being advised to avoid travelling in and out of the area unless it is essential (for work or education).

You can find the latest travel guidance for England and the rest of the UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#travelling-within-the-uk-the-republic-of-ireland-and-the-channel-islands>

Travelling internationally from England: There are no longer any restrictions on leaving England to travel internationally, however to protect public health in the UK and the vaccine rollout, you should not travel to [countries or territories on the red or amber lists](#).

If you do need to travel to an **Amber** destination for an emergency, you must update any setting attended by your child(ren) and;

- All family members who have travelled must quarantine for 10 days at home upon their return and can only leave home to take a test
- Paid for PCR tests must be completed by all those who have travelled aged 4 and above on day 2 and again on day 8 following your return
- Please do not send children back to nursery, school or college without completing the mandatory quarantine period

### **Testing at home with Lateral Flow Devices (rapid tests)**

During half-term you should continue to encourage children in year 7 and above to test and report their results as they have been in term time.

We would be grateful if you could ensure that children in year 7 and above take a rapid test on Sunday 6 June ahead of their return to school. Should they receive a positive result they must begin self-isolating immediately and book a confirmatory PCR test. Any student with symptoms of Covid-19 or feeling unwell should take a PCR test immediately and not attend school.

Parents and carers of children of school age are also encouraged to take regular rapid tests. You can find your nearest collection site or order online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest).

Please only complete rapid tests on children in year 7 and above.

### **Support for families**

This is a challenging time for everyone, and we want you know that help and support is available for anyone who needs it in Hertfordshire. HertsHelp can provide free, confidential advice and practical help for things like food, essential bills and emotional support. Call 0300 123 4044, email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net) or visit [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

We hope you enjoy half-term and remember – hands, face, space, fresh air and test. These key things will help to keep you and your loved ones safe.