



24th November 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I am writing to update you on a few things.

Firstly, a reminder that school is shut for an INSET day on Friday 26th November. Students should take the opportunity please to revise for up and coming winter exams. Year 11 will have just finished their winter exams and should therefore spend some time reviewing how the process went and reflecting on their revision and preparation. I know a number of young people have commented that they felt the exams went well, whilst others were not so happy with their performance and preparation. They have overall though behaved in an exemplary manner over the two weeks of the exam period and are to be praised with how well they have responded to exam conditions. Teaching staff will be feeding back results in the run up to Christmas and we will have an official ‘results event’ when they return after the holiday. We do know that many found the process stressful- particularly in the context of the last two years- and we will be looking at our support mechanisms, wellbeing support and preparation with them in the lead up to their pre public exams.

We are concerned that we have seen a spate of vandalism in school over the last two/three weeks- particularly in the toilets-, which not only makes the environment unpleasant for everyone but costs school money that we cannot waste. We will be speaking in the strongest terms to students and asking for support in identifying perpetrators. Unfortunately, due to the vandalism that has occurred we will have to lock toilets during lesson times with students having to request a key. We will also be limiting students who are allowed out of lesson. I will speak to students next week in assembly. Please be aware though that if a child does have a genuine reason and has not just had break or lunch they will not be prevented from going to the toilet.

Fire safety and Lockdown: You will be aware that as a school we have some different procedures that we follow in the case of different situations arising. An example of this would be the regular fire drills and evacuation drills we undertake to ensure every member of our community understands what we would do in case of having to evacuate the building safely due to a fire.

We also have a ‘lockdown’ procedure. This is a procedure agreed by governors, informed by best practice and shared with all, as to what we would do if we had to ‘lockdown’ the building. Examples would be, if we had an intruder on site, or we were concerned that there was an environmental hazard outside school requiring us to stay indoors.

We intend to practise our lockdown drill with our school next week. Students have been prepared for this by their form tutors who have shared a presentation. We will ensure that all students who may be particularly vulnerable to worry are supported during the drill and undertake it with support from a key adult.

Students will hear a message, ‘This is a lockdown.’ The teacher will then lock the classroom door, close blinds and ask students to ensure they are quiet. When the lockdown is over, a Tannoy message will be given: ‘The lockdown is over’.

We hope that we will never be in a position to have to fully carry out a lockdown procedure, or indeed evacuate because of fire. However, it is best to ensure we are all prepared for what we would do in our setting to ensure we are safe.

Ties: increasing numbers of students are coming to school without a tie. We will have a week's amnesty on getting a tie- after that students will receive a sanction. Please speak to us if that causes issues.

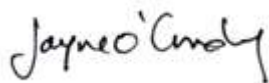
Certificate and Presentation Evening: we are really looking forward to welcoming back our Year 11 from last year- the class of 2021 to their awards event at school tonight.

Inter house competitions We have a number of great inter house competitions planned in the run up to Christmas- including inter form football and netball, inter house bake off, Christmas bauble competition and many, many more. Please speak to your child to see what they are taking part in!

Own Clothes Day Monday 29th November- this is Children In Need day we postponed due to Year 11 exams. Please provide your child with a £1 donation to take part.

Yasal Memorial Day: Huge thanks to everyone who supported! The raffle will be drawn tomorrow and winners notified. Very well done to Mrs Laryea and Mrs Morrissey's Year 10 forms who won the competition for raising the most money and in the most creative way. They had a Domino's pizza awards afternoon earlier this week. We are so, so proud of all year 10 who were truly brilliant and raised £2000 pounds for the Brain Charity.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne O'Grady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ms J O'Grady
Headteacher