

31 March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As we head into the Easter break I would like to thank you all for your support and participation in the lateral flow testing programme that was initially in place at school, and has now moved to you at home.

To confirm, as is tradition at Weald, tomorrow is a shorter day for students and also an opportunity for them to wear their own clothes. We would be very grateful if you felt able to contribute to the Weald Development Trust via parent-pay in respect of this. We normally suggest a donation of £2, however this is only a guide and all donations are voluntary.

At home COVID tests

As you know, the guidance requests that students complete 2 lateral flow tests per week at home (as a guide we recommend Sunday and Wednesday evening), with the results recorded on both the government track and trace system, and with the school via our web-form. This is to enable us to support the track and trace system should we have a positive case confirmed by a PCR test. Students will be bringing home with them today or tomorrow enough tests for the duration of the Easter break.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WTR_-IG7lkylrAoocDBtgByS6ahndpdHtzTRJM4LBZBURtdHVjdWNjdUNUJRvUgwSUyYVktFU0g3Wi4u

In addition, the government are now making available test kits for families which you can order via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Masks and other measures

We will be reviewing the risk assessment we have in place at school once the government have confirmed any changes to the guidance. We are expecting this to happen over the Easter holiday and will communicate any changes with you once we are in possession of the guidance. In advance of any announced changes, please plan for the return to school to be under the same mitigations as we have in place now.

Clubs and Societies

We are really pleased to be able to restart some of our clubs and societies after the break, all have been risk assessed to ensure they comply with our COVID bubble systems.

Running club will be starting at lunchtimes, giving students the chance to get outside and enjoy some fresh air and exercise. Students are welcome to wear their PE kit if the club falls on a day they do not have a PE lesson, but they intend to participate; our library team will be running a COVID safe book club; the Science team would like to establish a STEM group centred around the design and build of go-carts; the Weald Equestrian team will be reconvening led by Miss Grady; Eco-club is up and running and the PE team will be launching a PE leadership group.

Full details of locations, days and times will be shared with students when we return. I would like to thank the staff who have volunteered not only to set these up, but also to ensure they comply with our current restrictions. I am sure students will be as pleased as we are to see the clubs timetable returning.

Reports and parent and carer contact

We have continued, through lockdown, to provide written reports detailing student progress and also offered individual meetings in place of whole school consultation evenings to ensure you are able to best support your child. However, please do not feel you need to wait for the report to come out to contact us if you have any concerns. Form tutors, heads of year, subject teachers and heads of subject are happy to respond to any questions or queries you may have.

Year 11 and 13 Centre Assessed Grades

The JCQ guidance was published this week, which has confirmed our approach to collecting and collating evidence for centre assessed grades in place of GCSE and A Level examinations this year. We will share our Weald policy in line with this after the Easter break. In the meantime, students simply need to continue to fully engage with lessons in order to be in the best possible position to provide the evidence of their progress we need to confirm their grades.

I would like to thank our students, who have been remarkable in their resilience in relation to this, we are enormously proud of the positive attitude and work ethic they are demonstrating to us daily.

Changes to the way we work

The pandemic has resulted in many changes to the way we work, not least the increase in the use of Teams and other means of electronic communication. Whilst we are all looking forward to regaining the freedom to meet face to face, we would like to engage with you, students and staff in a review of the way we work once we are restriction free. There are some positives that have come from the new way of working and we are keen to capture these. I will be in contact after the Easter break with more details about how to get involved.

Second hand uniform

I am aware that many of you will have uniform that no longer fits, and in many cases has only been worn a few times. We are still operating our second-hand uniform shops, the receptions at both campuses are very happy for students to drop off donations for the shop. Equally, if you would like to purchase anything, do drop us an email to school@wealdqs.org letting us know what you are looking for, and we will have a look and get back to you.

I do hope you have a restful and relaxing Easter break, and manage to get outside and enjoy some of our (limited) new freedoms. Thank you, as always, for your support and understanding and we look forward to seeing the students back after the holiday.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E. Bone
Headteacher