Dear Parents and Carers

Parent/carer Term 1 update letter

We have reached the end of the first term back together as a school community and I would like to thank all of our students, parents and carers for their support in ensuring this positive start to the school year.

Overall Term 1 has been a fantastic success starting with a smooth return to school for all years groups, followed by the induction of our new Year 7 and 12 students. Considering the “new world” we live in, our students have responded in a true Brooke Weston manner, showing determination, resilience and positivity. As we moved through the term, we have been able to successfully and safely introduce further aspects of our curriculum such as PE, DT and Performing Arts, to ensure our students’ curriculum remains broad and enriched. We have also been able to continue with some of our annual key events ‘virtually’, such as our Open Week in Week 6, which was a great success.

As we move into Term 2 we will keep reviewing government guidance and, if possible, we will be reintroducing various clubs and after school interventions. However, this will be greatly dependent on the national picture and we will communicate with parents as more is introduced in a safe manner.

Face coverings

The use of face coverings will continue at Brooke Weston Academy and I am pleased to confirm that we have had no positive cases of COVID-19 to date. Going forward I ask that parents continue to support us as we educate students on the importance of face coverings and how they protect themselves and our community. This is particularly important as we move into the flu season, and the NHS recommend protecting your child against flu and include reasons to get the vaccine in the following poster. Further information and guidance is also on their website: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/.

Blended Curriculum

To support remote learning, when students are unable to be in school, we have created year group maps for years 7-11 that outline our curriculum for the learning that will take place over our next two terms. Due to the breadth of subjects available at A Level, and the more refined set of subjects studied, the Online Curriculum will be available in individual documents for each subject. https://www.brookeweston.org/page/?title=Online+Curriculum&pid=219.

It is important to note that this does not replace our in school curriculum and attendance to school is compulsory unless students are unable to attend due to self-isolation, government guidance, shielding or illness.

Prize giving and other events

Unfortunately, due to government guidance, we are unable to hold many of our in-school events including prize giving, showcases or musicals. We do however want to find creative ways to undertake this and will be looking at recordings and/or online events to replace these. The first of these will be prize giving that will take place during Term 2 week 5. This event will take place in school and in year groups, where students will celebrate the achievements of their peers. Photographs of the prize winners be made available on the website along with related presentations and news stories. Students and parents will be informed of this and prizes given to students on the day.
Coronavirus guidance

As a reminder, in order to keep the school community safe, it is essential that all families follow the stay-at-home guidance issued by the government. Government guidance issued to schools makes it very clear that in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 we must ensure that we “minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school”. In addition, if a student comes into close contact with a person who has tested positive, they must also self-isolate. You must not send your child into school if they have any of these symptoms even if you feel that any such symptoms relate to another illness.

During the holidays, please ensure that you contact the school on 01536 396366 if your child tests positive. If your child only has symptoms or has to self-isolate during the holidays and is unable to return to school, please let us know by phoning reception on the Monday 26th October 2020 in the normal manner.

In summary

I want to finish by thanking you again for your fantastic support to both myself and the staff at Brooke Weston Academy over this time. Please look after yourselves and your families during this uncertain time. We are looking forward to seeing all of our students back after a restful two week October break.

Yours sincerely

Shaun Strydom
Associate Principal