



Assembly notices

Monday 29th March 2021

Reflection for the week

This coming weekend, Christians around the world will celebrate Easter – the most important festival in the Christian calendar. On Thursday 1st April, Christians will attend church to celebrate Maundy Thursday – which commemorates the Last Supper with Jesus and His disciples. On this night Jesus knew that he would be betrayed by one of His disciples and be handed over for arrest and crucifixion the next day. The day of crucifixion is referred to as Good Friday. Good because it is one of the most holy days in the Christian calendar. It is followed only by Easter Sunday, where Christians celebrated Jesus' resurrection, meaning Him coming back to life.

This festival may seem an odd one for those who are not Christian. It includes betrayal, death and resurrection. Yet the term used for the practice of each of these holy days is 'celebrated'. This is because the main message of Easter is new life. Jesus' death had been planned – in order to cleanse humans of the sin put upon them by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and to allow them the chance of resurrection themselves. In Jesus' resurrection, Christians believe that out of destruction and disaster, that there is always hope.

It is a message that will bring comfort to all of us who have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. For those of us who have lost loved ones. For those of us who have missed seeing friends and family.

It is a message that will bring comfort to the millions of people who are unemployed and for those who have become homeless.

It is a message that will bring comfort to those who are victims of violence and discrimination; for those affected recently by the shooting in Colorado that led to 10 people being murdered; for those affected by the killing of a seven year old girl in Myanmar following the military coup in the country; for those in the black and Asian communities in the USA and the rest of the world who feel under attack because of just who they are.

No matter what religion you belong to, whether you have any religious belief at all, let us take comfort from the message of Easter. That when there is despair, worry – when things seem at rock bottom – life always provides hope.

Please see the assembly notices for this week:

Thursday 1st April 2021

Thursday is an inset day and therefore pupils should not attend school.

Wednesday is your last day of term.

School returns for all pupils on Monday 19th April 2021.

All pupils in Key Stage 3 should be in school no later than 8.40am.

All pupils in Key Stage 4 should be in school no later than 9.40am.

Punctuality to school

It is compulsory to attend school on time. This is for many reasons, but one of the main reasons is health and safety. At school we are in loco parentis – in other words we act on behalf of your parents/ carers – and as such, we need to know where you are and that you are safe.

In addition, being punctual is a quality that is important in having now and in the future:

- Punctuality shows that you are organised
- It shows that you are dependable
- It reflects professionalism and attention to detail
- It shows respect for your teachers and other pupils.

Again, you are reminded that:

- All pupils in Key Stage 3 should be in school no later than 8.40am.
- All pupils in Key Stage 4 should be in school no later than 9.40am.

Uniform notice

When you are in school you are expected to be in full school uniform and our expectations on appearance and professionalism has not faltered.

- Look after your school uniform
- Piercings: nose piercings, smiler piercings, eyebrow piercings or multiple piercings are not allowed – and boys are not allowed piercings at all
- Hair: no cuts, lines or high top. We do not permit afros and hair must be your natural hair colour.

Equipment

You are reminded of the basic equipment that you are expected to bring to school:

- Several blue or black pens
- Several HB pencils
- A ruler with cms and inches
- A pencil eraser
- A scientific calculator
- A reading book

You should also try to bring a glue stick, highlighters and a dictionary to school.

Social Distancing

Schools must continue to enforce social distancing, year group bubbles and Covid-19 specific rules, such as wearing face coverings in communal areas and now in classrooms.

So therefore, we are obliged to remind you that we all have a duty to abide by the additional school rules:

- You must keep two metres apart where possible from staff in the school
- You must keep at least one metre apart from other pupils in the corridors and stairwells
- You must not shake hands, fist bump or hug other pupils
- When wearing a face covering, do not touch the part of the face covering that is in contact with your mouth and nose
- When wearing a face covering it should cover your mouth and nose
- Be aware of what you touch – avoid touching handrails or door handles. You should sanitize your hands after touching handrails or door handles – consider this especially when using public transport
- You must not lend nor borrow equipment
- Wash your hands regularly and properly – for at least twenty seconds – especially when arriving to school, before and after lunch and when leaving school
- Gloves are not effective ways of preventing the spread of germs and diseases
- You must stay in your year group bubble – you are not allowed to wander around the school unsupervised. You are not allowed to mix with any other pupil from another year group whilst you are in the school – including lunchtime. Entering an area of the school where there is a bubble which is different to yours will lead to cross contamination and further restrictions on your movement around the school. This includes crossing areas at lunchtimes.
- Only two pupils are permitted in a toilet block at any one time – and pupils should not go into any other toilet block other than those assigned to you.

Please also be reminded that if you are seen fist-bumping or making physical contact with others, you may be issued with a fixed term exclusion. If a pupil even playfully slaps, touches or grapples with another pupil they will be issued with a fixed term exclusion. You should not touch anyone.

You are reminded that that any pupil who acts in a way that causes panic will be sent home immediately with a meeting arranged with their parent/ carer before they can return to school.

Behaviours that cause panic include, but are not limited to, fake coughing or sneezing on others, making physical contact with others, spitting, fighting, play fighting and claiming that they have Covid-19.

Additionally, please continue to be vigilant and reflect on the seating plan of the canteen and main hall at lunchtime. Tables are in rows facing forward. This is in place purposefully as when people face each other when they eat there is a greater chance of the spread of saliva spreading involuntarily when talking or eating and hitting someone's face. This means that germs are more likely to spread.

Therefore, when eating lunch you must sit forward.

Seating plans in lessons must also be kept to. Pupils are not allowed to move seats, as you need to be socially distant from as many people as possible. The less different people you are near the better for you. If pupils disregard this notice then they are putting others at potential risk. We cannot and will not accept this.

Please be mindful of your noise levels when being escorted from your classroom for an option subject, lunch or at the end of the day. Excessive noise causes anxiety for many people and it disrupts lessons that are going on. Pupils who make excessive noise around the school will be sanctioned.

Taking pride in your environment

Please be mindful of the environment that you work in. Nobody wants to work in an untidy or messy classroom. Nor do they wish to use a toilet which has been used carelessly.

This is our school. Look after our school.

Additionally, as you have been told repeatedly, germs spread in toilets – when you use them properly and carefully, this reduces the amount of germs that can infect you.

Staying safe online

- Never give out your real name to a stranger on the internet
- Never tell anyone you do not know where you go to school
- Never give out your address or telephone number to someone you do not know
- Tell an adult immediately if someone makes inappropriate suggestions, makes you feel uncomfortable online, or asks you to send something to them online, for example photographs
- If someone you do not know does any of the following – these are danger signs – you should tell your parent or carer immediately!
- If they insist on having your address or phone number
- If the person emails you pictures which make you feel uncomfortable and which you would not want to show to anyone else
- If the person wants to keep their chats with you secret
- If the person tells you that you will get in trouble if you tell an adult what has been going on
- If the person wants you to email or send pictures of yourself or use a webcam in a way which makes you feel uncomfortable
- If the person shares information with you and tells you not to tell anyone else about it
- If the person wants to meet you and tells you not to let anyone know

Social Media and Fake News

There has been a massive increase in the amount of fake news and clickbait on social media platforms over the past 5 years. You must be careful about trusting what you read:

- Consider the source of the information – click away from the story to investigate the site, its contact information and its mission
- Check the author – do a quick search on the author – are they credible? Are they real?
- Check the date – reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events
- Check for subjectivity – does the author seem biased? Consider if your own beliefs could affect your own judgement
- Read beyond the headlines – headlines are there to create sensation
- Check the sources where an article claims to have got their research
- Consider that a story might be an example of satire – and therefore has been exaggerated for comedic reasons
- Use fact checking sites.

Cyber-bullying advice

Social media sites, including messaging apps, claim to have a zero-tolerance approach to cyber-bullying, however in a recent survey, 91% of people say that they were not satisfied with how the reports were dealt with.

All apps/ sites allow you to:

- Report abuse
- Block users.

If cyber bullying affects you speak with your parents or carers and it can be reported to the police – cyber bullying is a criminal offence. If the police were to investigate they can find the culprit pretty easily – especially as every post, message, picture or video added to the internet leaves a digital footprint – even if the person who has added the post deletes it, the post still exists somewhere.

However, some things should be considered:

- It is easier for cowards to write something abusive behind a computer screen than to say it in person
- Any post that is uploaded can be shared or screenshotted and sent to anyone
- Cyber bullying is a criminal offence. A cyber bully could therefore get a criminal record
- Cyber bullies can have their accounts deleted.

Stay safe.

Attitude Determines Altitude