



The Talentum Learning Trust



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF RESPECT RESILIENCE AMBITION PRIDE

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Our Ref: TYL/jc

12th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Latest Update – November 2021

I hope that you and your families are well.

Please find below some updates on Covid-19 guidelines, examinations in 2021/2022 and Sixth Form applications.

Covid-19 Guidelines

Firstly, I would like to thank students for the way in which they have returned to school this term. Whilst we have been determined to ensure that school life has been as normal as possible, we have had to continue to operate with certain expectations in order to keep students and staff as safe as we can. Students have coped well with this and this has doubtless helped to limit the spread of infections. **We continue to recommend the use of masks in indoor communal spaces and when using school transport other than for those who are exempt. Students should bring their own mask to school; we have a limited stock to supply students who may have forgotten or lost their mask, although this supply is not limitless and students should not rely on it as an alternative to bringing their own.**

We will shortly resume the breaktime service in New Hall canteen, allowing students in Years 9, 10 and 11 to purchase drinks and snacks. Students should wear a mask when queuing in the canteen. In the event that we see an increase in cases, it may be necessary to re-introduce tighter control measures to limit the spread of the virus.

Students should continue to complete Lateral Flow Tests twice per week and report their results via the links on the school's homepage. We will continue to supply boxes of test kits, although students are always welcome to collect extra tests from the school office should they need them.

Examinations 2021/2022

Students in Year 11 will sit their Trial Examinations at the beginning of December. These examinations will take place in the school hall in full examination conditions in order to give students a realistic experience ahead of the summer. Exam timetables will be shared with students in advance to allow them to plan their revision.

Whilst we hope that all examinations will go ahead next summer, Ofqual (the examinations regulator) has this week published information on the contingency arrangements should examinations not be able to go ahead as normal. In this event, schools will be asked to submit evidence of grades that have been achieved by students in formal conditions throughout the academic year. In this scenario it is likely that grades from trial examinations would go towards this



evidence base, though it is important to state that any grade achieved would not be a limiting factor, but would rather contribute towards a wider portfolio of evidence. Students must not worry themselves that the trial examinations may dictate the grade they will achieve in the summer – this is not the case. The best approach for students will be to treat the trial examinations as an opportunity to measure their progress to date; the only way that this works is if students revise and try their best in order to get a true picture of where they currently are, enabling teachers to then work with them to address any gaps or misconceptions.

The same contingency arrangements will operate for students in Year 13, with evidence from assessments throughout the year (including their trial examinations in the Spring) being used as evidence towards a final grade.

A separate letter from Ofqual chief regulator will be sent out to students/parents in Years 11 and 13 giving more information on the plans for 2021/2022, and we will continue to share information throughout the year.

Sixth Form

We were pleased to welcome back a large number of our Year 11 students into Westwood Sixth Form this year, alongside a number of students who have joined us from other schools. The application window for next year's Sixth Form entry (for current Year 11 students) is now open – application forms can be obtained from the school office, or can be completed online here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2ZEO4Wgo4kyLCjxLLqw-hNcACfosBjNjta1HN0QzNH5JUREQ4QjAySVdENTY0TzJJU1BIQldMNE9MUS4u>

Should students or parents have any questions about Westwood Sixth Form, please contact the school office who will be able to direct your query appropriately.

Events

Students have recently visited Chester Zoo as part of their Art and Photography courses and will shortly visit galleries in London to support their studies. History visits to Shrewsbury Prison are planned for later this term and we are looking forward to celebrating Children in Need day next week – more information to follow.

Thank you for your ongoing support, please get in touch we can help with anything.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Taylor
Headteacher