



Hanham Matters

Weekly bulletin for Hanham Woods Academy

Week Beginning 30th November 2020

As I write this newsletter, we have had no further positive cases amongst staff or students since last week. We have 175 students self-isolating currently, although 37 (mainly Year 7 students) will be returning to the Academy on Monday morning. Given that we are broadly in agreement with the Government's position that there is a greater risk to young people from not being in school than there is from COVID-19, it is important that young people attend the Academy whenever possible. Unless your child has symptoms of COVID-19 (or someone in the household does) or they are asked to self-isolate as they have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive case, please do send your child to the Academy every day.

For those students who are self-isolating, it is essential that you complete Academy work every day. There is work on the 'working from home' section of our website which can be completed when your child is not attending for any reason. We have also established some 'self-isolating class' groups on Show My Homework to enable teachers to supply additional work for those students who have an extended period of time in self-isolation. If you need any support with distance learning work, please contact your child's teacher or Miss Peyton, Assistant Principal.

You will by now have heard the Government's announcement that Bristol and South Gloucestershire are to be placed in tier 3 when the national lockdown ends at midnight on 1st December. There have been no significant additions to the guidance from the Department for Education to schools in tier 3. We will continue to ask staff and students to wear face coverings whilst moving around the site as well as follow the 'systems of control' we have had in place since September, such as washing / sanitising hands regularly and maintaining social distancing especially with adults.

Today is the last day for our amazing Year 11 students to complete any outstanding Pre-Public Exams (PPEs). The vast majority completed these exams in the Academy but some have had to complete them in controlled conditions at home due to self-isolation. These exams are key for identifying strengths and areas for development in performance so that teachers and students can work together to improve performance ahead of the next round of PPEs in February and their final GCSE exams in the summer. Students will receive the results of their PPEs on Wednesday 9th December ahead of a 'virtual' Year 11 Parents Evening on Thursday 10th December. A letter will be sent to all parents/carers of Year 11 students early next week outlining this timeline and providing instructions and links to book parents' evening appointments. It is essential that these PPE results are placed in context. Many students will have seen an improvement in results from their last PPEs in Year 10. Some may have achieved the same grade but improved the number of marks they scored. Both of these outcomes are what we would hope for. Given the situation we have been in for the last 8 months however, they may be some students for whom these results are not as good as they were expecting. It is important to support these students to realise that the results are not the most important aspect. What is important is that they use the information provided by their teachers to ensure they improve next time and again in the summer when they sit their final GCSE exams.

I had the privilege this week of visiting Year 8 tutor time during which I observed them reading. In Year 8 we have invested in class sets of key texts. Each tutor group are undertaking guided reading as a group. The teacher reads aloud and all students read along. There is strong evidence to suggest this has a very positive impact on reading standards of young people and is a key part of our literacy strategy. Please do discuss this with your child if they are in Year 8 and do provide Mrs Hutchinson with any feedback.

Finally, this week has seen Year 9 students watching 'options' assemblies. Each subject has produced a video for Year 9 students to watch in tutor time and discuss with their peers and tutor. These introductory videos will be followed up in their subject classes. This will support the students to begin to make informed decisions about the subjects they wish to study at GCSE level when they start Year 10. These assemblies are being supplemented with ongoing careers guidance and advice in PSHE lessons, some IT lessons and through support from our new Careers Education lead Mrs Burt.

Stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Mr Kneller | Principal



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CALENDAR- Week Beginning 30th November 2020

DATE	EVENT
Monday 30 th November	
Tuesday 1 st December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y7 Flu Vaccination (09:00-10:00)
Wednesday 2 nd December	
Thursday 3 rd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual Principal's Parents' Forum (15:30)
Friday 4 th December	

CALENDAR- Week Beginning 7th December

DATE	EVENT
Monday 7 th December	
Tuesday 8 th December	
Wednesday 9 th December	
Thursday 10 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y11 Virtual Parents' Evening (16:00-19:00)
Friday 11 th December	