

14 January 2021

Dear Parents,

We hope you and your family are well and falling into an effective routine as we move towards the end of our second week of lockdown. One hopes the devices are shared fairly across the family and the wi-fi can allow you all to complete your daily tasks without requiring the negotiating skills of Kofi Annan. We live in the countryside and I have no doubt that if my children were older we would have been forced to move out for bandwidth necessity. Indeed, the Senior Team let out a groan if I am ever to join a remote meeting from home.

Many thanks for the feedback we have received this term, it is much appreciated. The positive comments are always very well received by the staff and it is good for us to be aware of any concerns.

The great joy of teaching is that two days are never the same even during a lockdown, but this week has seemed relatively calm. I am of course speaking too soon with Friday still to come. There are still a number of unanswered questions, not least, an update on how GCSE and A-level grades will be generated. But, as I said in the assembly to the boys this week, we can only impact what we have control over and I would urge all our students to continue to give of their very best. If they do that, they will not go far wrong.

#### **Year 7 iPads**

It was a real pleasure to see many of the Year 7 parents this week coming in to collect their iPads. We hope it will alleviate device pressure at home and allow your child the chance to flourish further. [This is a link](#) to a guide created by Mr Rose, Head of Year 7, for boys who have just collected their new iPads. It may be of interest to other boys too, it is very informative and easy to follow. This link has also been shared via the Year 7 Form Teams.

To any parents who were unable to collect their son's iPad, please come to Reception between 0900 and 1500 on a weekday. We will be delighted to hand the iPad to them. Please bring identification; a Driving Licence or Passport are ideal. There is no need to pre-book this collection.

#### **Inset Day – Friday 22 January**

This date has always been in the calendar to allow for the professional development of our staff. Departments will be spending the time reflecting on their delivery during this remote period, sharing best practice and also looking to review their curriculum intent and implementation. There will be no online lessons for pupils on this day. We hope it will give students a break from the screen too. There will be provision still offered on this day for key worker students should it be required.

#### **Year 9 National Childhood Immunisations – Friday 22 January**

There will be a letter coming out to Year 9 parents early next week in regards to the roll out of the immunisation programme. We are aiming to host the vaccinations on 22 January. If you are unable to attend on this day, we totally understand and a further date will be offered. Details to follow.

### **PE lessons - Healthy body, healthy mind**

Trying to keep active is more important than ever during these times of difficulty. We need to be stretching our bodies as well as our minds. Within the core PE lessons, the PE teacher explains what is required for the week and the different activities and exercises that could be completed. There are plenty of examples of great workouts and exercises shared by the PE staff, many of which are hosted on YouTube. Staff discuss the different exercises and there is also the use of apps to upload the number of steps per day if desired. Please urge your son to engage in this important aspect of the curriculum.

On top of this, we want to keep minds healthy too. A well-being aspect is shared each week, which we ask the students to engage in. **This week** is very much about Gratitude – I have been given an example of a student being grateful for having RGS staff trying to go the extra mile in online lessons (it was much appreciated!). I hope you reap the benefits at home too.

### **Parents' Association**

I write today's newsletter having just finished a really enjoyable hour or so with the RGSPA. They are a cracking group of people who are very keen to support the school. This group has been invaluable in their support, delivering a vast array of opportunities for your sons. It is an exciting time for the Committee as they look for new ideas and initiatives and I know your support will be appreciated. Covid has understandably limited the usual fundraising opportunities but please keep your eyes open for the upcoming Sushi Making Evening and could we please encourage you to support the [500 club lottery](#). Winners drawn every month!

We wish you and your family well. Please keep safe and many thanks for your support.

With kind regards

**Alex Wallace**  
**Deputy Headmaster**