

10 December 2020

Dear Parents,

As I start this letter on Tuesday morning the first vaccines are being given. Hopefully the tide is turning and we are another step on the journey back to normal. One of the key questions my kids have asked is: "Where does Santa sit on the priority list?". I am reliably assured that given his weight, appalling diet and penchant for sherry he is right at the top.

What a strange Christmas it might be for many of us. The awkward moment of having to decide which grandparents you like most (or which children for that matter)! And how best to see your loved ones whilst also keeping you and them safe.

Christmas is traditionally that time of year for reflection. For many, it will be a year to forget, but there are no doubt positives that have also arisen. The country has been united in many ways; we will, for example, never forget the Thursday evening clapping for the NHS workers. We have found new ways to stay connected with one another, "zooming" is now a household term. The environment has had a chance to rejuvenate after decades of neglect. Businesses are demonstrating much greater corporate social responsibility. Many are coming together to support those most in need. Innovation has been forced upon us, from education moving online to gin distilleries producing hand sanitiser! The United Nations called for an end to all wars in the face of COVID-19 as the world confronts a common enemy: "It's time to put armed conflict on lockdown," stated Secretary-General António Guterres. Crucially, it has allowed us to feel a sense of gratitude for all the things we have taken for granted: freedom, leisure, work, family and friends.

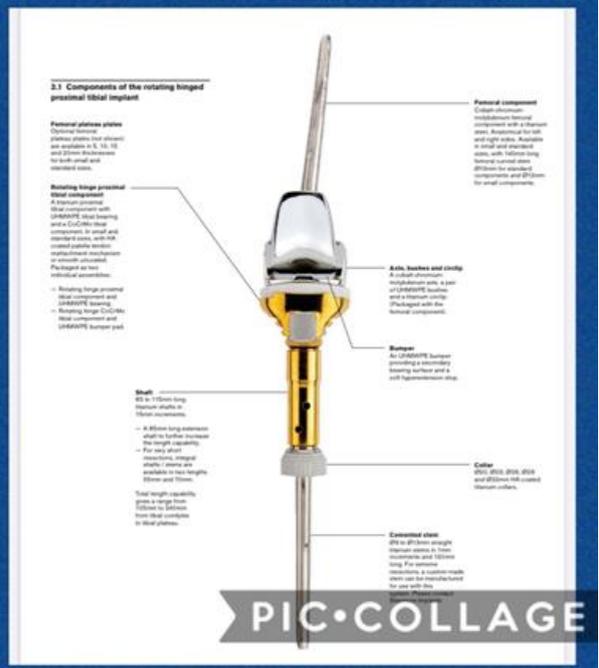
The pandemic has caused horrendous upheaval for many, bereavement, economic strain, health complications and a lack of security to name but a few. But when this is all over, we might appreciate one another even more and maybe we will have become better human beings.

#Fiveforfinn

This afternoon I joined our Year 10 rugby boys to run 5km in support of old boy Finn O'Mahony. Finn left us last year and was due to go to Nottingham University, but instead he is facing a battle with cancer. He is undergoing several months of significant treatment to tackle the cancer at the university hospital in Oxford. He has recently undergone a full knee replacement.

Please [click here](#) to see the information in full and how our rugby squads are helping to support this good cause. If you wish to make a donation, the details are on the link as well.

As you can see from the pictures below Finn is an RGS man through and through.





With kind regards

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