

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### **Newsletter No. 3**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now approaching our Open Mornings which will be an important series of events for the school. The installation of new windows in the tower block is moving at pace and we are busy preparing for these Open Mornings to give as good an account of ourselves as possible.

The Open Mornings are advertised on the school website and there is also a link which allows you to book an appointment.

It has been good to see another Enrichment Day this week, with Year 7 engaging in all things space and rocket-like. Year 8 were writing about horrible children in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Year 9 had a number of Personal, Social and Health activities, Year 10 had French and Spanish, Year 11 went to Maidstone to conduct their Geography town survey, Year 11 Historians experienced the nature of war in Vietnam and Afghanistan, Year 12 had a series of Decision-Making and Mental Health workshops. A group of Sixth Form students took part in a Drama workshop and all DT A-Level students visited the Design Museum. An impressive range of activities!

As we move towards colder and usually wetter weather, can I remind families that hooded tops, track suit tops or sweatshirts are not permitted as part of the school uniform and will, after one warning, be confiscated. In accordance with school rules, students should only wear school v-neck jumpers. A reminder that the Parents Association has a second hand uniform shop (including PE kit) which can be found here <http://opgspa.org.uk/2nd-hand-opgs-uniform/> and any parent with a student eligible for Pupil Premium Grant should contact the school if financial assistance for the purchase of uniform is required.

Thank you to parents who have been updating the school with public transport issues. It has certainly been a challenging few weeks, with driver shortages being compounded by fuel shortages. The school, along with representatives from other grammar schools, will be meeting with KCC and bus companies next week to discuss the issues you have raised. We will of course keep you updated.

#### Lateral flow testing at home

Another box of lateral flow test kits for home testing is being issued to your son/daughter. We strongly advise that they take part in the twice weekly home testing process so that we can slow down the spread of the virus and protect the school community.

Please continue to report the result to school and the NHS, using the following links:

School:

[Student Home Testing - Notify the school](#)

NHS:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

We will be running a virtual presentation on applying for Oxford and Cambridge which will be available from 14<sup>th</sup> October. If you are a pupil in Years 9 to 12 and you want to find out more about the process of applying, then please do watch the presentation. A link will be emailed to parents with students in these year groups.

I am also pleased to announce that we have been awarded the British Council's International School Award for 2021-24. This is testament to the school's promotion of international work through trips and raising awareness. Many congratulations to Mr Lewis who is our school's International Links Co-ordinator.

In sport, the U13 A Football team beat St Gregory's 5-4 in the Kent Cup and U13 B beat St Gregory's 1-0 in the National Cup. The 1st XI lost to MGS and 2nd XI lost to Simon Langton. The U14 Rugby team beat Norton Knatchbull 20-15. The U15's lost 30-3 to MGS in round 2 of the National Cup. Well done to all involved.

We had an incident recently where a Year 7 boy was hit by a car as he ran across the pedestrian crossing. Mercifully, the pupil was unhurt, but I am pleading with all our pupils to please be careful when crossing the road which goes up to Mid Kent College. We now have an additional pedestrian crossing at the bottom of the road. Pupils **must** use either pedestrian crossing in the morning and after school. A potential issue is pupils trying to cross the road in between buses at the end of school, where because of a blind spot, they cannot cross safely. Please impress upon your son or daughter the importance of this message.

Yours sincerely,



K.W. Moody  
Headteacher

### **Upcoming Dates**

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> October

Open Morning 9-11am.  
Year 7 & 8 Assembly - Hall 2pm  
Year 12 Faculty activity - LRC 1.50-2.25pm  
ECT meeting 3.30pm  
U15 Rugby v Norton Knatchbull GS - Home 4.00pm (MKJ)  
U12A Football v Norton Knatchbull GS - Away 3.30pm (RDE)  
U14A Football v NLL - Away 3.30pm (SPS)

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> October

Open Morning 9-11am.  
Year 13 Faculty activity - LRC 1.50-2.25pm  
A Level Maths exam 2pm – Staff Room  
1st XI Football v Norton Knatchbull GS - Home 2.00pm (SPS)  
2nd XI Football v Queen Elizabeth GS - Home 2.00pm (RDE)  
1st XV Rugby v Beths - Away 2.30pm (MHD, MKJ)

Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> October	A Level Physics exam 2pm - Staff Room Year 10 Assembly - Hall 2pm Year 12 Faculty activity - LRC 1.50-2.25pm Year 9,10,11 Oxbridge information evening - virtual (AHN, SPB) U13 Rugby v Norton Knatchbull GS - Home 4.00pm (MKJ)
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning 9-11am. Year 11 Biology, Chemistry, Physics IAG - LRC 2pm Year 13 briefing - Hall 1.50pm
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> October	A Level Maths exam 1.30pm – Staff Room
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning 9-11am. Year 9 Assembly - Hall 2pm Year 12 Faculty activity - LRC 1.50-2.25pm
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning 9-11am. A Level Physics exam 9.00am Year 13 Faculty activity - LRC 1.50-2.25pm
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Year 11 Assembly - Hall 2pm Year 12 Faculty activity - LRC 1.50-2.25pm Year 11 GCSE Drama component 1 exam performance 6pm (SPB)
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year 11 Maths & Further Maths IAG - LRC 2pm Year 13 briefing - Hall 1.50pm Year 12 Monitoring issued

**Open  
11+ Mornings  
2021**

*"An exceptional learning experience"*

Tuesday 12th October 8:50 - 10:50  
 Wednesday 13th October 8:50 - 10:50  
 Friday 15th October 8:50 - 10:50  
 Tuesday 19th October 8:50 - 10:50  
 Wednesday 20th October 8:50 - 10:50  
*by appointment only*

**Click Here  
To Book**