

25 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

This letter contains some practical information to help you and your child over the Easter holiday and start of the summer term.

Firstly, I wanted to re-iterate how well all our students have done since they returned to school on 8 March. Attendance is actually higher than in the Autumn Term (96.5%) and behaviour and attitudes to learning are really positive. In some ways, it seems like a short period back at school and in other ways this seems like a very long term. It is important to recognise that the vast majority of our students have worked hard since January with remote learning and the return to school has come on top of being confined to a computer screen for at least five hours a day.

### **Lateral Flow Tests:**

Students will bring home a pack of three LFT tests today to be used during the Easter holidays. Can your child please take their test on the following dates?

- Thursday 1 April
- Thursday 8 April
- Sunday 11 April the evening before returning to school

Although the risk of Covid infection remains very low in our area, and children are also highly unlikely to become seriously ill with the virus, it is important to keep up this routine to ensure that we all do our bit to help eliminate the risk of transmission. Staff will also be self-testing over the Easter period. You only need to inform the NHS and ourselves if a test is positive but the NHS prefer you to register all results for their stats.

### **Uniform:**

As a reminder for when we return:

- Coats are not to be worn inside – the weather will be warmer and should not be required even with room ventilation.
- PE kit will only be worn in PE lessons so students will be in full school uniform at other times.
- Students in trainers for school without medical notes are going to be picked up first week back. We will then contact you.
- If you do have uniform issues due to unavailable stock, can you please make sure your child returns after the Easter break with a letter. We do have some clean second-hand uniform if this helps. Please contact Mrs Byers at [kbyers@birchwoodhigh.org.uk](mailto:kbyers@birchwoodhigh.org.uk)

### **Year 11 GCSEs and Year 13 A Levels / BTECs update:**

**Year 13 students** have their formal assessment timetable for the first two weeks back after Easter. They should also be clear about what to revise and the type of assessment being set by their teachers. This will be combined with other assessments and classwork to produce a 'best fit' A Level or BTEC grade. A Level results will be available on **Tuesday 10 August** – we will send you further details next term.

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**Year 11 students** have classroom-based assessments for the first two weeks back after Easter. They should also be clear about the nature of these assessments and what to revise. They will also have formal assessments from 10 - 28 May and will receive their timetable when they return after Easter. Their final GCSE level will be based on classroom assessments, their November Mock Exam, the classroom assessments in April and the May formal assessments. GCSE results and Sixth Form enrolment will be on **Thursday 12 August** – we will send you further details next term.

**Café:**

A quick reminder that the café will be fully open for Breakfast, Breaktime and Lunchtime. We have zoned areas for each year group following all Covid directives for hygiene.

- Breakfast is served from 8.00am for bacon rolls, cereal, warm pretzels, a large selection of fresh/sliced fruit, orange juice, milk and hot drinks.
- Break time 11.00 - 11.30am (in year bubbles) hot wraps, paninis, mac and cheese, nacho pots, potatoes wedges, pain au chocolate, juices, drinks, sandwiches, smoothies and fruit.
- Lunch 1.20 - 2.00pm (in year bubbles) hot meal deal only £2.50, pasta king, wide range of sandwiches/wraps, cakes, drinks, fruit pots, hummus pots, cheese pots and fresh salads.
- There are three different zones, the main café, pasta king hatch and sandwich hub so less waiting time for everyone. Designated year bubble seating areas.

Parents can top up via ParentPay or students can pay by cash via the cash machine in the café.

**Clubs and other Extra-Curricular activities:**

These will resume after Easter with a variety of clubs, revision classes and sports practices – further details will be published on the school website and shared with your child when they return. Trips and educational visits remain on hold until we are advised otherwise by the DfE.

I hope you and your family enjoy a couple of weeks break and that the lovely spring weather continues.

Yours sincerely

*Chris Ingate*

Dr Chris Ingate  
Principal