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Dear Parents and Carers

This week we have heard how it is likely that restrictions will be lifted in the coming weeks. In school we have been vigilant with a number of mitigations remaining; we will continue to insist on the washing and sanitising of hands, particularly in high touch areas like the canteen.

Public Examinations

On Monday, Ofqual published their pre-examination material. As expected, it is quite dense reading, but this is out of a desire to ensure that the systems are in place to support young people as they take public examinations to ensure that they are as fair as possible. I will write to Year 11 and Year 13 parents separately providing more detail.

Student Behaviour

The vast majority of students behave very well in school most of the time; this is acknowledged by the large number of positive praise points, which parents can see through Classcharts. Where youngsters behave incorrectly it is important that this is challenged, restorative work is put in place and if need be, a sanction. Most teenagers push the boundaries this is part of their 'job description'. However, this does not mean to say that certain behaviours should go unchallenged, this can come as a shock to some students and parents. Youngsters are also adept at seeing a situation or repeating it through a lens that does not necessarily represent what occurred. Rest assured we will continue to reward good behaviour, challenge inappropriate behaviour and will contact home for support if necessary.

Extra-Curricular

Thank you to all students and staff involved in extra-curricular activities this week. Our Year 7 basketball team won their first match against Crookhorn School. Four students from Year 7 and 8 attended a presentation at QA hospital to present money and gifts raised through the year group discos.

Food Price Rises

Over the last twelve months we have seen a significant increase in the price of wholesale goods, the school cannot continue to maintain the canteen service without reflecting these costs in the prices of food. Some ingredients and products have gone up in price by over 40% since September. Disposable food containers and other similar items have seen price increases of approximately 18%. The DfE recognise the financial pressure schools are under, unfortunately there is no additional money to mitigate against the rise in food prices. All of you will have seen similar increases in family shopping bills.

The cost of the food served in the canteen reflects the cost of ingredients and labour with a minimum charge for miscellaneous items, like cleaning materials. Other related costs for example energy, which is significant when cooking, maintenance and replacing machinery are subsidised for through school budget. Currently a two-course meal purchased from the servery costs £2.63, which represents exceptional value.

I have asked the canteen staff to do all they can to keep the costs down, even if this means restricting the products available. Unfortunately, this will not solve the problem, so after half term there will be an average price increase of 2%. I would like to say that this will be the last price rise this year, unfortunately I cannot guarantee this with the price of wholesale goods being so volatile.

I appreciate that for many families, budgets are tight. If you are experiencing difficulty please speak to us and we may be able to signpost you towards additional support.

Road Safety

Again, we have been experiencing difficulties with parents/carers not following the highway code whilst they are on the school site. In particular, students are being dropped off on the roundabout at the top of the main entrance road which causes an obstruction to other traffic and blocks the entrance to the staff and visitors' car park off the roundabout. There is also a real danger of a student being injured, or worse, by cars who are trying to squeeze past those cars that are stopping inconsiderately on the roundabout. This area is now being monitored by CCTV.

Parents and carers dropping their children off at school are kindly reminded that they must stop by the kerb closest to the bus shelters and get their children to safely alight onto the path. This leads to a newly marked-out pedestrian crossing which should be used to safely walk to the playground area and school buildings.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher