



# St John Fisher News

26 February 2021

No. 455 (Lockdown Edition)

## Lent

Last Sunday was the first Sunday of Lent, a period of 40 days leading up to Easter. Our thoughts this week have been about reflecting on ways we can let go of things that burden us and hold us back. This has been done through the idea of pruning and trimming plants so that new life can grow. As we are now looking forward to the Spring and Summer and into the future we want to make fresh starts and focus on what we can now begin to achieve in our lives and who we can become rather than holding on to things that we no longer need or that are holding us back.

## Deputy Head Appointment

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Natasha Wilmore has been appointed as Deputy Headteacher from September 2021. Mrs Wilmore will replace Mr Reilly as Deputy Head when he steps down at the end of August 2021.

## Reopening from 8 March 2021

This week has seen two major developments in terms of education. The first was the announcement about reopening and the second the clarification about how Years 11 & 13 will be assessed this year. I have written separately in detail already about reopening but will summarise the key points here too.

We will be returning to face to face teaching using a staggered approach from Monday, 8 March and endeavour to make the return to school as smooth as possible but there will be some inevitable disruption because of the requirement for schools to test students in secondary schools. All COVID restrictions will still be in place as before the lockdown, including the staggered start and finish times and staggered lunchtimes and our canteen will be fully open. Each year group has a specific return date:

Years 11, 12 and 13 – Monday 8 March

Year 10 – Tuesday 9 March

Year 9 – Wednesday 10 March

Year 8 – Thursday 11 March

Year 7 – Friday 12 March

Attendance is compulsory for all students from the above dates regardless of whether they have had a test or not. The only reasons someone to not be in school is for illness or if they have COVID symptoms or for a positive COVID test result. I have written separately about the expectations around remote learning, face masks and other aspects of the return to school from 8 March. Please make sure you familiarise yourselves with the information sent out to you so your child's return to school is as smooth as possible.

## COVID Testing

With parental consent, students will be tested three times at school before the Easter holidays. Following this students will test themselves twice a week at home using free tests provided by the Government. Testing is not compulsory but is strongly encouraged in order to keep our school, our families and our communities as safe as possible, especially those who are clinically vulnerable. Protecting each other and our families is the right thing to do and although it may seem like an inconvenience or feel unpleasant, testing is very quick and easy. The first test for those students who have consent will take place BEFORE returning to school. The dates we will be offering tests have been communicated already in my letter.

## Years 11 and 13

Getting students back to school is our priority and Years 11 and 13 are particularly in need of support as we return to full education. The PPEs had to be postponed during lockdown and we had to change the dates so that these will now take place straight after the Easter holidays. This gives students and teachers three weeks of face to face teaching and two weeks over the Easter holidays to prepare fully for these. Students will only be tested on what they have been taught and teachers will guide students through the next few weeks very carefully. The results of the PPEs will help students and teachers to identify any gaps for further teaching and help to fine tune learning in the lead up to final assessments.

The final grades that will be given to students will be made up of a variety of different pieces of evidence and not only from the final assessments. We will follow the process and guidance given to us by the exam boards and send you specific information as we get it. Please be reassured that we will act in the best interests of our students and adopt an approach that is fair and robust. It is very important that students continue to work as hard as they can and come back to school ready to learn and take on this challenge ahead of them. I have every confidence that our students will rise to this challenge and do the best they can and we will support them every step of the way.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back to school.



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## Thank you

I want to take this opportunity to thank all members of staff for the incredible efforts being made to support our students and families during this very difficult time. Staff have worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic to support students, families and each other. I have received so many positive emails about our members of staff and wanted to publically acknowledge them here. In addition I want to thank parents/carers and governors for the incredible support you have all given and continue to give to the school. Last but not least, our students who have been so resilient and tried to remain positive even though that has been really hard to do. A special thank you to our school Council members, particularly our Sixth Form leadership team for leading our students through such a difficult time.

*Kate Pereira*

## Glow event by IGNITE



IGNITE will be providing an online version of the Glow event on Saturday 27 February. It will be an afternoon with workshops, music and fun exploring how faith can bring light to our lives. All aged 13-19 are warmly invited and encouraged to bring a friend or two!

## Mental Health

During this week, on Monday and Wednesday our Student Leadership Team participated in two meetings about further ideas on improving mental health services for young people. Paul Bristow, MP and Kathryn Goose, a commissioning manager at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group have both agreed upon holding further meetings with us for additional discussions. As of now, our efforts of spreading awareness and promoting the significance of mental health have reached Parliament and are rapidly gaining popularity. However, let's hope that this momentum continues and that change is brought to the system. Change doesn't happen immediately but requires time and begins with us as individuals. Please make sure you reach out to your close ones, teachers or even peers if you've got any concerns about your own mental health. For more information, please get in touch with the Student Leadership Team.

*Tonyo Yordanov – Year 12*

## Message from Chroma Sport

Following the recent announcement that schools are reopening to all students on Monday, 8 March, I wanted to let you know that at Chroma we are working hard to support parents and schools with school uniform for pupils returning to school. Unfortunately, we are not able to reopen in full as per the Government guidelines and our showroom remains closed until the 12 April but we are able to operate online and we have continued to do this through the various lockdowns. With the return to school for pupils being confirmed we have seen a significant increase in enquires for uniform and equipment as parents get ready to send their children back to school. In order to facilitate and support this we would like to let you know that we will be opening next week for click & collect only so that parents can collect their school uniform without having to pay postage and packing costs. I have listed the dates and times below and we will be reviewing this on an ongoing basis to ensure to we support parents and pupils where necessary.

*Click & Collect Only*

Wednesday 3 March: 10am – 2pm

Thursday 4 March: 10am – 2pm

Friday 5 March: 10am – 2pm

Please Note: Deliveries are going out as usual.

If you have any questions please contact Chroma Sports on 01733 262526 and we will be more than happy to help.

