



THE GRANGE
ACADEMY
LIBERTAS PER CULTUM

9 October 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

It's been another hectic but enjoyable fortnight. We do appreciate the efforts that everyone is making to observe Covid-19 principles on public transport and we continue strongly to advise all pupils to wear face masks in corridors and communal spaces and to keep washing their hands carefully and using the hand sanitisers on entering the school. There is a further recent update from Professor Jim MacManus, Director of Public Health for Hertfordshire on the website with advice on symptoms, testing etc.

[Also on the website is a video showcasing some of the activities on offer at the school.](#)

We had hoped to put on an open evening but because of Covid measures this has unfortunately proved impossible, so we hope that this is the next best thing.

We have enjoyed some excellent assemblies recently, from Mr London on Black History Month, which you may have seen on our [@TheGrangeFA](#) twitter account, and Ms Thomas on Mental Health. One of the themes of Ms Thomas' talk was the deleterious effects of social media on the well-being of young people. It can be a particular problem when teenagers have their phones in their bedrooms: sleep patterns are disrupted both in terms of bedtimes and the temptation to have a look at the phone in the middle of the night. We would recommend that phones are kept out of bedrooms at night. The excuse that they are necessary as an alarm clock is of course nonsense: a cheap alarm clock can do the job or, without wishing to plug any particular company, an Amazon Echo Dot can make an excellent alarm clock, radio and audio streamer!

Talking of wi-fi devices, you will have seen recent emails about how to log on to the school's remote learning platform. Because we may soon be faced with quarantining measures I would urge you to ask your children to demonstrate to you that they know how to log on. Some students still have laptops from the previous lockdown: you will recall that we sent out a survey last month about the availability of wi-fi and devices in your home. Although the deadline for this has passed, the survey is still open, so if your family has a distinct lack of devices please do complete the survey or get in contact and we will do our best to find a machine for you to borrow.

Something else we have been emphasising in assemblies is the need for students to show politeness and respect at all times; to remember, for example, to use 'Sir' or 'Miss' when speaking to a teacher or answering their name when the register is called. These are small but important things: as well as creating a more civil and respectful environment, good manners are ultimately a skill and a pathway to greater employability and the enhanced job prospects which we all desire for our children.

With best wishes

Dr Philip Hills
Principal

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