



23 October 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

It feels like the first half of term has flown by; perhaps that is the accelerating effect of Covid-19! We have all had to make major adjustments to the effects of virus-containment on everyday life and I would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to teachers, support staff, pupils and parents for your continuing efforts in holding back the onset of the disease and protecting the most vulnerable. So far, incidents have been very isolated and the only major impact on a year group has been Year 13, who have been working remotely from home since last Friday.

There is no way of knowing what the run-up to Christmas holds but there is a fair chance that other year groups may need to work remotely at some stage, which makes it crucially important that every student has a device with which to log in. If your family has need of the loan of a device and you have not already contacted us, there is still time. Please email your Head of Year in the first instance. [On the website we have also just posted a parental guide to learning from home during isolation, which you may find useful.](#)

Some parents have asked what they should do if their child needs to quarantine over half-term. The answer is to let the school know and to follow the guidelines on self-isolation available here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>

On a happier note, we will be introducing our House System when the students come back. The houses will consist of Zeus (Yellow) Hera (Red) Athena (Green) and Apollo (Blue) and pupils will earn points for their house with the flag of the winning house being flown at the front of the school alongside the school flag and the Union Jack for the next term. Judging by their excellent work on Homer's *Odyssey*, I am confident that Years 7 and 8 are already well versed in the Olympian divinities. Numerous inter-house competitions take place throughout the year, including:

- The Spelling Bee
- The Maths Challenge
- The Knowledge Maestro
- The Public Speaking Competition
- Various sporting competitions
- Sports Day

Unfortunately, I have received a number of complaints from local residents about the need for more considerate parking: specifically, please do not park outside Sacred Heart School or on the double lines on Merry Hill Road. Concerns have been raised that parents' cars and school driveways are being blocked. We would request that to relieve congestion at the most busy times of the day, parents park further away from the academy.

On the UCAS front we are pleased that we have several Oxbridge candidates this year and a potential dentistry student, all of whom have completed and submitted their forms in time for the earlier deadline. We wish them and all our Year 13 university candidates every success.

Finally, I would like to flag up the 'Into the Sixth Form Evening' for our current Yr 11 pupils, which will be taking place on Thursday 12 November. Unfortunately this will be a pupil-only event because of the Covid-19 bubble and the potential risk from others entering the building. We hope to record various aspects however, so please watch this space.

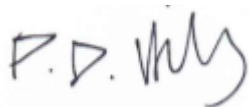
We recently recorded a live Q&A presentation about The Grange, which you may be interested in viewing, along with some other materials which, we hope, give a nice flavour of life at The Grange:

<https://www.thegrange.futureacademies.org/page/?title=Virtual+Open+Day+2020&pid=54>

If you are on twitter you may like to follow us [@TheGrangeFA](https://twitter.com/TheGrangeFA).

I am conscious that our Year 11 students will be busily preparing for their imminent mock GCSE exams, but I hope that all of you and your families are able to take the opportunity to enjoy the half-term break together.

Yours faithfully



Dr Philip Hills  
Principal  
The Grange Academy