

19 March 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

Warm congratulations to everyone on a safe and orderly return to school. It has been an absolute delight for teachers and support staff to welcome our students back into school and to see them enjoying their lessons and renewing friendships.

Lots of students have taken the opportunity to attend basketball and fitness clubs in year group 'bubbles' after school, laid on by our excellent PE Department. These will continue in the final week of this term and immediately after the Easter holidays.

It was pleasing to see a good number of parents express an interest in the Easter holiday activity camp. It is heavily subsidised and exceptional value for money, but places are strictly limited. Ms Hayward is following up with families who have already expressed an interest.

Final Day of Spring Term

One or two parents have inquired about the arrangements for the final day of term on Friday 26 March. I am pleased to confirm that this will be a full normal school day, with the standard start and finish times for all year groups.

Covid-19 and Lateral Flow Testing

Mask-wearing has been well observed in the past week. Lateral flow testing in school has gone smoothly, too, so far – many thanks to all of our staff who have volunteered to help with this. After the Easter break, every family will be receiving a home testing kit; Mr Nagle will be in touch shortly with full details.

Reports and Assessments

Years 11 and 13 have already got straight back into their stride as they prepare for the more formal assessments beginning in early, May. They will have a busy Easter break revising and preparing for these assessments.

Parental reports for Years 10-13 will be available on the parent app next week, with Years 7-9 delayed slightly to the first week back after the Easter break. As always, it will be enormously helpful if you can take a bit of time to discuss with your son or daughter their progress and attitude to learning as they get back into the routines of the classroom and our high expectations for the rest of the year.

Year 9 Options

Today is the deadline for your options choices to be submitted. Please find the online application form in the student email system. We will confirm choices next term.

Year 12 Options

We will finish interviewing all Year 11 students this half term on their plans for their future studies. We have a record number of applications for our successful sixth form and confirmation letter will be sent home next week.

World Water Day Challenge

This week students have been using their tutor time to learn about the UN's annual World Water Day celebrations. World Water Day seeks to raise awareness and assist in the UN's effort to provide access to clean water and sanitation to all by the year 2030. Ms Hayward has set students a challenge to measure their water impact through creating two meal plans, one high and one low water impact. Students have until 26th March, 2021 to email their entries to Ms Hayward (c.hayward@thegrange.futureacademies.org). The most creative and accurately calculated plan will win a prize!

Future Academies Essay Competitions

On the subject of competitions, if you are wondering how to keep your children occupied during the Easter break, please find attached the links to the Future Academies Essay Prize competitions.

SCIENCE

<https://bit.ly/3vICFwx>

ENGLISH

<https://bit.ly/3bFHd9d>

LATIN

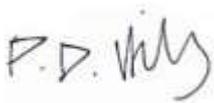
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HISTORY

<https://bit.ly/3coUe6b>

It would be wonderful to see some winners from The Grange Academy in these prestigious competitions. In addition to the kudos, cash prizes are available!

With very best wishes



Dr Philip Hills
Principal
The Grange Academy