



# Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Expecting Excellence

Excellence is a high bar to set.

It requires a relentless quest to improve. Constantly asking the question 'What can I do to get better?'

When things are difficult it is an easy option to lower your expectation of yourself and of others.

Excellence is the standard we set here at the Academy. We expect it of our staff, of our pupils and students and the wider community. We know that this has been a difficult time for many (in fact our community know this more than most across the country). Yet our expectations and our desire to give our pupils and students a great education has not wavered.

It has been incredible to see pupils and students back in school this week. So much happiness and eagerness to continue their learning. I am hearing a lot of positive feedback about how much pupils and students have retained from their time during Lockdown in terms of knowledge and what they have remembered.

This is great news, but what comes next?  
We continue to aim for excellence.

Due to Lockdown, we are aware that pupils and students have not had the opportunity to have their hair cut as they usually would. We are aware that they might have grown out of their uniform so have given a period of grace.

In the next 5 days, we will be speaking to pupils and students about their appearance, reminding them of our expectations and supporting them in meeting our Academy expectations. We expect pupils and students to be smart, and in the correct uniform.

At the same time, we also recognise that these have been difficult times for everyone and have support in place to help parents and carers who may need it.

We are delighted to have pupils and students back in the Academy. This week we have seen 98% of pupils return to Primary, 95% of students return to Secondary and 99.5% of students return to Sixth Form.

As a community we are expecting excellence.  
Now the bounce-back begins!

Damian McBeath  
Principal

## Primary Parents' Evenings on Teams

A reminder to parents/carers to book an appointment via Edulink for either Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March.  
[\(Click here for more information\).](#)

## Testing

In the past 2 weeks, students have been tested 4 times before starting home-testing. This has been done to ensure that students are well prepared to carry out their tests at home and know what to expect. Students have been incredible in their approach to this. We are so proud of their maturity and sense of responsibility.

In the past 14 days, we have now conducted nearly 4,000 Covid-19 Lateral Flow Tests. Out of these, 3 students have tested positive. Each case was asymptomatic and in all cases those students who have been in close contact have been asked to self-isolate for a period of 10 days as a precaution. This is less than 0.1% of all tests taken as we move to home testing.

## Consideration for our Community

This school has a reputation as a warm and welcoming community. Our values of '**LOVE, INTEGRITY, GENEROSITY, HOPE and TOLERANCE**' are at the heart of everything we do. Once again, I would ask all parents and carers, especially those travelling to the Academy by car, to be respectful of our neighbours.

This week, I have received a number of emails about how parents have parked their cars when dropping off and picking up their children. **Please be thoughtful and respectful of others.**

It is important that we are good neighbours.



## A Message from The Chaplain

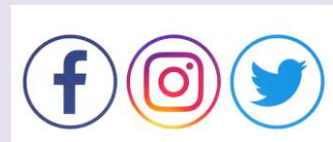
This Sunday is Mothering Sunday (or Mother's Day as we tend to call it). No need to thank me for the reminder if you haven't bought a card yet! Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So, each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit the main church or cathedral of the area. The return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. Children who had gone to work as domestic servants (quite common in those days) were given a day off to visit their family. Nowadays it is the tradition to give presents, flowers or cards to our mothers. This year might be hard for some people. They may have lost their mother during the pandemic or may not be able to visit them due to restrictions. Whatever the situation, this Sunday let us give thanks for those who have been, who are, or who are like, a mother to us, loving and caring for us.

Mr I Rich, Academy Chaplain

([Irich@thejohnwallisacademy.org](mailto:Irich@thejohnwallisacademy.org))

### IMPORTANT ACADEMY UPDATE

The brand-new John Wallis Church of England Academy website will be launching on **31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**



## GCSE - Exam Grade Process 2021

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March @ 5.00pm, we will be holding a Teams Live event for Year 11 students and their parents/carers. The presentation will explain the exam grade process for 2021 and will be followed by a Q and A session with the Principal and Miss Hawley, Leader of Year 11. The link has been sent to all Year 11 students and their parents/ carers in a letter from the Principal. We will be holding a similar event for Year 13 students.



## Local Update COVID-19

### Ashford

38 cases per 100,000 people in the week  
1<sup>st</sup> March –7<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The average area in England had 49

(source Department of Health and Social Care, via BBC.co.uk)