



Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 13th November 2020

Lest we forget...

This week we invited pupils and students to remember the sacrifices made by others, who have given their lives so that we may enjoy the freedoms we have.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them**



As we remember what others have done, it also brings into sharp focus what is being asked of us at the present time. This is our time to put the interests of others first.

When asked to wear a mask, it is for the good of others. When asked to self-isolate, it is for the good of others. The whole purpose of this second lockdown is to protect the most vulnerable in our society who are at risk from this terrible virus.

The measures we have in place and the decisions we have to take are to keep people in our community safe. Sometimes it can be difficult to understand the decisions; why some schools close bubbles and others don't. Why some students in a class are asked to self-isolate and others are not. In all of these cases, we are not taking any risks. We inform Public Health England about the circumstances and they will inform us of the actions we must take as an Academy. We have pulled together a page of [Questions and Answers](#) to try and make the process clear, this can be found on our website.

Could I ask that you spare a thought and offer a prayer for anyone who has contracted Coronavirus. We pray for them and their families and ask God to keep them safe and well.

Mr Damian McBeath
Principal

Pupil Voice 'LIGHT' Values INTEGRITY

'We think it's the most important quality because being honest is the foundation of character. With integrity, you have nothing to be afraid of, since you have nothing to hide. You will do the right thing, with your honest character, and you will have no guilt, therefore, you will live a happy life.'

Darcey Cumberbatch, Evalyn Artiss and Aiden Page, Year 12

'Integrity is doing the right thing'. *Lola Mae Adams, 2J*

'Integrity is being honest and doing the right thing, even when no one is looking'. *Pamim Rai, 2J*

Unseen acts of kindness

Manners cost nothing and have the power to really lighten up someone's day. In all interactions within and around the Academy community, being polite and well-mannered is important. Especially now more than ever. Anything we can do to make the community a happier place should be embraced.

It is those unseen acts of kindness that make the difference. Let's ensure we extend our good manners to our neighbours and those who live near to the Academy.

Message from Leadership

This week, has seen our very first 'Primary Virtual Parents' Evening' for Year Groups R - 6. We would like to say a massive "thank you" to parents for participating in the event and engaging with us through Microsoft Teams. The teachers really valued the opportunity to discuss the progress and attainment of individual children with parents and share some highlights of the term. I would like to personally thank the teachers, the office team and BCTec for their hard work, and for the thorough preparation that went into making these four evenings run smoothly. We are delighted to report that 80% of parents were able to discuss their child's academic achievements and welfare with the class teacher.

I would like to move onto an important issue which has surfaced this week. We require your support when dropping off and collecting children at the Millbank Road and Knights Park entrance to the Academy. We understand that the width of the road and high volume of traffic clearly do not make this ideal. We are asking parents to exercise more caution with parking and general manoeuvres at these very busy times. We must all work together as a school community to ensure that safety is paramount in our minds when parking. There are many additional pressures for us all at present but we do not wish to see any member of our Academy community hurt or for the need to call an ambulance. In the same vein, local residents are finding it difficult to leave their homes or access their drives. We ask that you are mindful of this. Mr McBeath has been in touch with several agencies in order to find a long term solution.

Best wishes, Miss Lacon, Vice Principal, Head of Primary

Updates

There are no changes to the risk assessment this week.

Meet the teacher



I am originally from Nottinghamshire in the East Midlands though I am enjoying getting to know Ashford and Kent and all it has to offer.

After studying and completing my degree in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at the University of Essex I knew that I wanted to work with young people. I spent a year working as a nanny and in a primary school before returning to my RE and Philosophy roots.

I joined the John Wallis Academy in September this year and I am really enjoying working within the RE department and the wider John Wallis Community.

In my spare time I enjoy tennis and watching live theatre as well as baking. *Miss Wright, Teacher of RE*



Local update COVID-19

Ashford

108 cases per 100,000 people in the week 2nd November -8th November 2020.

The average area in England had 195.

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