



Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 14th May 2021

Happy Eid 2021

We have 92 students within our Academy community who have been celebrating the festival of Eid.

I would like to wish those students and all of their friends and family a very Happy Eid (Eid Mubarak) for 2021. After a long period of fasting and reflecting, I hope you were all able to celebrate with your family.

Eid ul-Fitr is a very important festival in the Islamic calendar and was started by the Prophet Muhammad himself. It is also known as 'The Feast of Breaking the Fast' and is celebrated by Muslims worldwide to mark the end of Ramadan. Eid ul-Fitr takes place on the first day of the tenth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, and Muslims are not permitted to fast on that day.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Damian McBeath, Principal



Keeping Safe

Students around the Academy are looking forward to coming to school on Monday when they can return **without the need to wear a face mask or covering**. Students have been incredibly compliant and have played their part in helping reduce the spread of the virus. I would like to publicly acknowledge, praise and thank them for their efforts in the past year.

We must still, however, remain vigilant. It is more important than ever that students continue to self-test twice a week and wash their hands regularly. We are close to not needing such protective measures in school, but not there yet. Please remind your child (if they are in Year 7 or above) to continue to take their COVID-19 Lateral Flow Tests.

**Get tested twice a week.
Every week.**

Stay COVID-safe. [Keep](#) protecting the community.



Protect our community. Protect the vulnerable. Protect yourself.

A Message from The Chaplain

Thursday 13th May, in the Church calendar, is Ascension Day. It is a celebration of Jesus' ascension to heaven after he was resurrected at Easter. Sunday 20th May is the festival of Pentecost, when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is 50 days after Easter. Each year in the Diocese of Canterbury there are Nine Days of Prayer between the two festivals. These are normally in the form of a prayer booklet with some contemporary artwork. This year, with the "discovery" of Zoom, the prayers will be short online services. The Academy has been invited to lead one of these services next Thursday.

One of the prayers from the service says, 'Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send us out to be your presence in the world.'

May the fire of God's love inspire each of us to be a difference in the world.

Mr Rich, Academy Chaplain (Irish@thejohnwallisacademy.org).

Attendance Matters

Over the past 18 months our pupils and students have missed a lot of school. It is more important than ever that they are here, on time, ready to learn.

We do not permit holidays during term time for any circumstances. If you decide to take your child out of school anyway, you could face a £120 fine or worse. Fines are issued per parent, per child.

Pupils and students are also expected to be in school every day and to arrive on time unless they are not well enough to attend or have permission for an absence in exceptional circumstances such as attending a funeral or medical appointment.

Whilst we will always look to support parents and families wherever we can, there are too many pupils and students not attending school with unauthorised absences. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance please contact the Attendance Officer via Student Office (01233 662810) or via Primary Reception (01233 621133) in the first instance.



Local Update COVID-19

Ashford

13 cases per 100,000 people in the week 3rd May – 9th May 2021. The average area in England had 17.
(source Department of Health and Social Care, via BBC.co.uk)

PARENTS' EVENINGS AND TUTOR EVENING

In the hope of Covid restrictions being fully lifted after 21st June, we have added Parents' Evening dates to the Academy Calendar in Term 6.

Year 7, 8 and 9 Tutor Evening – 8th July 2021
Year 10 Parents' Evening – 13th July 2021
Year 12 Parents' Evening – 15th July 2021

More information will be communicated to parents and carers next week.

Celebrating Pupils Work

We would like to share with you some great work from Primary years. English work within Year 3 has been based on 'Charlotte's Web' by E. B. White. As part of their learning they have taken on the role of Charlotte, the spider who befriended Wilbur, and thought of ways in which they would describe Wilbur. They then used these descriptions to create [acrostic poems](#).