



Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 18th June 2021

Good Luck Mr Rich!



Next week, our Chaplain, Mr Rich will be out of the Academy for a few days. He has been successful in an application to appear on the Channel 4 TV programme Countdown.

On behalf of everyone in the Academy, I would like to wish Mr Rich lots and lots of Luck!

We will be rooting for you in that crucial Countdown conundrum.

Have a great weekend everybody.

Mr Damian McBeath
Principal

Pupil and Parent Voice

As part of the 5-Year Development Plan, we are relooking at a number of key Academy policies and practices. It is important that parents and pupils have the opportunity to have their say on these matters.

Uniform:

We are reviewing the Academy Uniform Policy for September, ensuring that it is inclusive and fair for all students at the Academy. There are 5 quick questions which we would like your feedback. Please click [here](#) to submit your responses.

School Day:

Attached to a letter proposing to alter the times of the school day slightly. Whilst the change is a very small one, we want to give all students and parents the opportunity to have their say on the proposal. Click [here](#) to view the letter.
Click [here](#) to submit your feedback.

Testing

Having seen a number of restrictions lifted in the past months, it has been nice for all of us to return to a sense of normality.

However, cases in Ashford over the past week have started to rise. It is more important than ever that we all continue to take our COVID-19 tests.

Whilst the risk to children is extremely low, we have a responsibility to our families and loved ones. PLEASE, PLEASE encourage your child to continue taking the Lateral Flow Test, twice weekly and record their results on the portal.

A Message from The Chaplain

Next week I will hopefully be fulfilling one of my ambitions. Next Wednesday, I will be appearing on Channel 4's Countdown. I am looking forward to it, although slightly nervous in case I don't get many points.

As part of the application process I had to complete a questionnaire to give the scriptwriters something to write as part of my introduction. I found some of the questions tricky to answer: favourite song, most daring or dangerous thing I have ever done (I don't really do daring), funniest thing that has happened to me (that can be recounted on daytime TV).

But the one I struggled with most was what is my biggest personal achievement. How would you answer that?

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



Lunchtimes and drinks

Please note that from **Monday 21st June** until the end of term, Year 7 and 8 will have lunch from 12.15pm to 12.50pm and Year 9 and 10 from 1.15pm to 1.50pm.

Please can parents ensure that students either bring their own drink to school or bring a refillable drinks bottle (especially in warmer weather). Students can use the water dispenser in the restaurant or the Infinity building at break and lunchtime to refill their water bottles.

Teacher Assessed Grades

Our teachers have finally finished the task of completing Teacher Assessed Grades for Years 11 and 13. These have now been submitted to the relevant exam boards for moderation. I would like to thank the teachers for their hard work in completing what has been a mammoth task. Alongside their teaching 'day job' our staff have been working around the clock to complete this task.

Results for the Year 13 A levels will be released on 10th August
Results for the Year 11 GCSEs will be released on 12th August

Road Safety

Please speak to your children about how they can keep themselves safe on their journey to and from the Academy. We are continuing to receive messages from members of the public about students who are not looking as they cross roads or cycling dangerously.

Local Update COVID-19

Ashford

28 cases per 100,000 people in the week 7th – 13th June 2021. The average area in England had 44 (*source Department of Health and Social Care, via BBC.co.uk*)

Student Cook Book

