



Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 1st April 2021

Have a Safe and Happy Easter

At Easter, Christians celebrate the day that Jesus rose from the dead so that they might have life. It is through His death and resurrection that Christians receive life.

This year a story of rebirth and new beginnings is one which we will all embrace. The past 12 months have taught us a lot about humanity and what matters most to us. Many of us have still had access to computers, to mobile phones, to Netflix and Amazon but this has not been enough. What matters most is human interaction and that connection with others; family, friends and loved ones.

This Easter, as we think about new beginnings (and chocolate) I would encourage each of you to look back at what you have missed and why. This will give you a clear indication about what matters most to you.

When school returned in March, pupils and students were so pleased to see their friends again. Many had been in touch throughout lockdown via computers and virtually, but seeing someone again in person made a big difference. You could see it in their faces as they reconnected with friends.

So, my Easter message this year is this. As lockdown is slowly relaxed and our freedoms regained; think about what matters most. What you have missed. Rebuild your life around these things.

As an Academy, we will be focusing on learning, experiences and self-confidence. The head, the heart and the hands. We will rebuild a great school for your children.

Have a wonderful Easter,

Damian McBeath
Principal

Uniform



When we return after the Easter holidays we will be returning to our high standard of uniform expectations that have always been in place in this Academy and those that make parents and students proud.

Please find a link to the [Academy Uniform Policy](#).

Teachers in Secondary will be conducting a spot check during Period 1 of the first day back, April 19th, and contacting parents of any student not in the appropriate uniform.

This includes hair. Students have been given leniency for the past 3 weeks but given that hairdressers will be opening 7 days before students return we are expecting to see hair, make up, jewellery and uniform in line with the Academy Policy.

Mobile Phones



There is no reason for any pupil or student to have their phone out or turned on during the day.

Our expectations are simple:

All mobile phones must be turned off and in the bottom of a bag at all times during the school day.

Any student seen with either a mobile phone or ear buds/headphones out of their bag on the school site will receive a red sanction.

Students will be asked to hand their phone into Student Services and can collect it at the end of the school day.

Primary Parents Evening!

Last week, we had a hugely successful Primary Parents' Evening which saw nearly 90% of parents meeting with class teachers virtually via Teams.

It is not the same when we can't meet up in person but many parents have stated that meeting via Teams has worked better for them personally. For further meetings, we will look to offer a hybrid model where parents can choose to meet with staff either in person or virtually.

We are conscious that the pandemic and lockdown has meant that we had to postpone Parents' Evenings in the Secondary school. We are awaiting to hear about the lifting of some current measures and will get a date in the diary as soon as possible so that parents can come and meet their child's teachers.

90%
of parents met
with teachers

A Message from The Chaplain

Some lockdown restrictions have been lifted; we can now meet in groups of up to six or two households outside. By the time we return to school hopefully leisure facilities and shops will be open. The clocks have gone forward one hour meaning lighter evenings and the sun has been shining although the weather forecast is much cooler weather for the bank holiday weekend (who said things would take a long time to get back to normal). We are starting to see the signs of fresh hope.

Easter is a time of hope. After Jesus had died on the cross his friends and followers were devastated. But on that first Easter morning when they went to his tomb they found the stone rolled away and angels said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead. Jesus is not here he has risen."

It has been a tough year for many people but there is hope. Look for life. Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.
(irich@thejohnwallisacademy.org).

New Academy Website

Our brand new Academy website is now LIVE!!

www.thejohnwallisacademy.org

Some users may receive a '404' error message when trying to view the new website. If this is the case, you will need to clear the Cache in your browser. Please click [here](#) for instructions on how to do this.

Art Newsletter



Local Update COVID-19

Ashford

29 cases per 100,000 people in the week 8th March – 14th March 2021.

The average area in England had 41

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

