



Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 23rd April 2021

A Legacy of Adventure and Hope

Last week, as the nation paid their respects to Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, it was noticeable and poignant how many tributes flooded in from young people who had benefitted from his incredible work.

In 1969, DofE Award for young people aged 14 to 21 launched and since nearly 7 million young people have taken part in the programme. The award involves helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.

Any young person can do their DofE regardless of ability, gender, background or location. As an Academy, I am delighted that this is something we offer to any student Year 9 student who is interested. Mr Terry runs the award at the Academy and we have seen a lot of young people in our Academy achieving things they had never believed they could.

It feels timely, that as we reflect upon the Legacy of adventure and hope left by The Duke of Edinburgh, we are slowly beginning to see many of the clubs, trips and activities open up again at our Academy.

The Primary have a trip already booked a trip to Hamstreet Woods for Year 2 and both the Year 11 Prom and Year 13 Leavers' Ball have been booked.

This is just the start. Education is about so much more than what happens inside the classroom and we are currently making plans for more trips, adventures and experiences as soon as we are able to do so. As an Academy, we are bouncing back with absolute rigour, with excitement and a sense of purpose. In a couple of weeks, I will be sharing the new Academy Vision and 5-Year plan with all parents. Whilst this is only virtual, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Have a great weekend.

Damian McBeath
Principal



A Message from The Chaplain

On Saturday I am having my second vaccine. I am looking forward to this as together with our twice weekly rapid-flow tests it means that if they introduce "passports" to get back to sporting events I will be able to apply. Some people say this will create a two-tier system. Rather selfishly, perhaps, I just want to get back to watching football. This week some of our football clubs have been called selfish and greedy as the "Big Six" teams considered a plan to join a breakaway European Super League. There was, of course, a lot of money involved. They have since rejected the idea.

Selfishness is that attitude of being concerned with our own interests above the interests of others. In his letter to the Church at Philippi, Saint Paul writes, "I urge you, then, to have the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind. Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own."

Selfishness is that attitude of being concerned with our own interests above the interests of others. I once heard someone say that JOY stands for Jesus first, Others second, Yourself last. Even if we don't believe in Jesus, putting other people's interests before our own is sometimes a good thing to do. Mr I Rich, Academy Lay Chaplain.

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End of Year Celebrations

We are pleased to confirm that bookings have been made for both the Year 11 Prom and the Year 13 Leavers' Ball.

Year 11 Prom

Friday, 2nd July 2021 at the Ashford International Hotel.



The Year 13 Leavers' Ball
Tuesday, 6th July 2021 at the Hythe Imperial Hotel.

Great Expectations

I am so proud of the how well the students have returned following the Easter break. We have stepped up our expectations and they have responded incredibly well.

We are stepping up the expectations because we know the incredibly positive impact that discipline can have on children and young people. Educational Research states this and we are already seeing it.

Academy Vision and 5-Year Plan

A reminder that I will be sharing the Academy Vision and 5-Year Plan with all parents and carers via a Teams Live session on **Wednesday 5th May 2021 @ 7.00pm**. A link will be sent to parents and carers nearer the time.



Local Update COVID-19

Ashford

14 cases per 100,000 people in the week 12th April to 18th April 2021.

The average area in England had 18

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