



Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 29th January 2021

Getting ready to re-IGNITE student learning

On Wednesday 3rd February, we will be holding our 2nd Academy IGNITE day. This is a non-screen day and a great opportunity for pupils and students to take ownership over their own learning.

Once again, we are encouraging pupils and students to switch off their screens and engage in a day of challenges and activities. The focus for our IGNITE Day 2 is 'excellence' and includes the wonderful poetry of Amanda Gorman in the Anthology. I would imagine that the following passage resonates for many of us right now.

***Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew.
That even as we hurt, we hoped.
That even as we tired, we tried.***

I hope you have a wonderful weekend. Even though we are all tired, we are trying, we are hoping and we are growing. Please keep talking to us, we have staff who are here to help as we continue to provide the best support and quality of education that we possibly can.

Stay safe,

Damian McBeath
Principal



Purple Alerts

This is just a reminder that the 'purple alert' notification is **not a sanction** but rather has been introduced for you. The alert is an additional layer to ensure that parents are aware of the level of participation that their child is engaged in during remote learning. There is no hidden agenda or judgement made. We are aware that this lockdown is challenging for everyone and that we are all making the best of a difficult and challenging situation.

The purple alert was introduced for parents and carers to keep you informed.

Year 8 Options

Today, I met with the Year 8 students who are currently about to start the options process. I sent a letter via EduLink to all Year 8 parents yesterday with details of the process.



If you have any questions regarding the process, please speak to Ms Walton or Miss Healey

The option booklets will be released next week on Friday 5th February, with more information to follow via Sharepoint and LIVE remote Q and A sessions.

New Staff



I am pleased to announce that we have appointed an Assistant Principal, Director of Inclusion, who joined the Academy on Monday 25th January.

Mrs McBeath will lead on SEND and also address the wider Inclusion remit including EAL, Pupil Premium, Inclusive learning, and stretch and challenge.

Mrs McBeath has previously worked as a Head, as a Director of Autism, as an Inclusion Lead at a number of London schools (Secondary and Primary). She has worked on the leadership team in Ofsted Outstanding schools and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, especially around SEND, to the Academy.

A Message from the Chaplain

Christmas will soon be over. "What?" I hear you cry.

February 2nd marks the end of the Church's Christmas and Epiphany season with a celebration called Candlemas which remembers the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, 40 days after his birth, in accordance with the Jewish ritual. The Bible tells us that while Mary and Joseph were in the temple with Jesus they met a man named Simeon who told them that Jesus would be a light for all the nations and then Simeon blessed them.

So, a thought for each of us today; are we a light and a blessing? Wouldn't it be good if our words, our thoughts, our actions, our social media posts were a blessing to others.

Mr Ian Rich, Academy Lay Chaplain
(irich@thejohnwallisacademy.org)



Local update COVID-19

Ashford

318 cases per 100,000 people in the week 18th January –24th January 2021.

The average area in England had 323.

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

Keeping Connected



Please follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

We will continue to share important information and updates on our social media platforms.