

Dear Parents / Carers

Thank you for the support you have provided throughout the year. It has been a tough year for all, and it is fair to say the last 18 months have provided greater challenges for schools and their communities than at any time I can remember. We have all had to learn so many new things, and get used to so many new situations, and it has in some ways drained us all. So, the holidays being so close is a good thing.

### **Years 13 and 11**

We wish everyone in these year groups all the best when the GCSE and A level results come through. Clear and comprehensive instructions and guidance is being sent to you about results, but do please check if you are confused. There will be clearly identified routes to follow for advice and guidance post results days, so please follow these and understand we will respond to you as soon as we possibly can.

### **Testing in September**

Although currently 'optional' for schools to turn themselves into testing centres again in September, I anticipate it will be made compulsory for schools to provide this. When we returned in March we were told the testing we had to carry out was to train pupils in how to conduct the Lateral Flow tests themselves at home. So, it would appear reasonable to provide you with more tests and ask that you conduct them before term starts. However, it is reported that the number of families conducting tests twice weekly has dropped, and it seems the government feels mass testing in schools will be the most effective way of ensuring testing has actually occurred. Please be reminded that it is not compulsory to be tested and pupils can return to school whether they have been tested or not.

### **Staggered start to term**

Final arrangements will be sent to you during the summer, but please expect that we will have to return to school on a slightly staggered basis, as we did in March. This may involve some testing going on the week before term starts, but we will let you know. If you previously gave consent for us to test your child or didn't give consent for us to test your child and would like to change that, please let us know. Otherwise we will assume you wish the previous consent status to continue.

Please keep an eye on emails from the school during the holidays so you do not miss any important instructions.

### **Time spent on social media**

How much time does your child spend online? We are confident that many pupils were affected negatively during the school closures by a lack of interaction with others and a lack of time spent at school. These can go hand in hand with many pupils spending too much time online on social media, where they are exposed to attitudes that we do not wish to promote. For example the way peers greet and interact with each other online is very different from the way we want them to in person, and we feel there has been a blurring between the two, resulting in a variety of unwanted, disrespectful behaviours. In the new school year we plan to do all we can to address this in school, and plan to involve parents whenever possible, so look out for school communications in the new term offering opportunities for parents to understand and get

involved in what we are doing to promote positive, healthy and respectful relationships between all within the wider school community. Also, we advise you to monitor the length of and the content of your children's social media exposure.

### Staff changes

As always, we are saying goodbye to some existing colleagues -

- Mrs Hookway leaves us having gained a promotion at Sheringham High School.
- Mrs Gibbs leaves us to take up a part time role at a local school and to spend lots of time gardening!
- Mr Gleed leaves us having gained a promotion at a local Ormiston Academy.
- Mr Crickmore leaves us having supported us over the last year as both a Computer Science and a Science teacher.
- Mr Leeder leaves us to retire after many years of support in the Technology department.
- Mr Moghaddas leaves us to take up another maths teaching role at Hellesdon High School.
- Ms Riley leaves the Music and Drama departments for a promoted position at Broadland High School.
- Ms Lal is leaving us to take up a post at Corpusty Primary School.
- Miss Fuller will be leaving us temporarily to have another baby.
- Mr Bowen leaves us to take up a teaching position in the UAE.
- Mr Whitaker leaves us as Ms Jolly returns from her maternity leave.
- Ms Williams leaves us as Ms Bradley returns from her maternity leave.
- Mrs Shirley Frostwick deserves special mention as leaves us after over 20 years on the cleaning team.

I thank all of the above for the commitment and contribution they have made to the school and its pupils, whether they have been here long, medium or short term. Each one will always be welcome at RHSC. I will write to you early in the new term introducing our new colleagues.

I hope you have a really enjoyable family time over the holiday. Although all Covid restrictions are ending, six weeks is a long time in Covid terms so I will write to you nearer the start of next term to confirm the situation regarding the safety measures we have had to put in place over the last year. Fingers crossed we can finally return to as close to normal as possible.

Yours sincerely

Tim Gibbs