



Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you at the end of an extraordinary Advent first half-term. We entered the new school year with a robust plan for school re-opening that had yet to be 'road-tested' and now following eight school weeks since 1st September, I am glad to report that our plan has positively supported student welfare, attendance to school and attitudes to learning. Your children have responded phenomenally well to all that has been asked of them and as new routines become the normal everyday experience, they have continued to engage positively with their learning through the Bridging Units provided by each department.

We have also encountered a number of new 'firsts' at the start of this school year and we have taken the decision to adapt many events planned for this term rather than cancel them completely, with some events deferred until the new year. We have had our first virtual Open Evening for both Sixth Form and Year 6 students and we have engaged Year 7 parents and carers with our Parents' Evening Booking System to facilitate our Year 7 Information Evening; Year 11 and Year 10 Curriculum Information evenings were replaced with virtual inputs from Year Leaders and teaching staff; retreat days for Years 8 and 7 took place on site rather at local venues and the planned content of our Year 11 Careers Day was delivered through morning Form Tutor sessions. We have also ensured that our pastoral curriculum has supported student wellbeing and welfare through virtual assemblies and messages delivered by members of the Senior Leadership Team, Year Leaders and form classes alongside.

St Nicholas has a long standing reputation for an extensive and inclusive enrichment offer at lunchtimes, after school and during the school holidays. Following the half-term break, we will be exploring the possibility of opening up a limited number of after-school activities and are currently updating our Risk Assessments to facilitate this offer in line with updated Government guidance - further details will follow.

In more practical matters, please do complete the remote learning survey that was detailed in Mr Wycherley's recent letter. Should your child have to self-isolate, certain GDPR permissions are required so that they are able to access our updated remote learning offer which will be delivered via Microsoft Teams - full details of our remote learning plan are available on our school website.



Secondly, many thanks for your support in regards to the wearing of face coverings in school - students have responded very positively. Please do remind your child to bring their face covering into school each day and although we do have spare disposable masks available if they are required, we only have a limited supply available.

Finally, as the cold and wet weather approaches please do encourage your child to wear their coat to school and should they wish to wear a jumper, then a school jumper can be worn under the blazer. Full details are included in our school Uniform Policy which is available on the website.

I hope the half-term break affords you and your families some rest and relaxation, and thank you as always for the support you offer the St Nicholas community.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher

