



06 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Last week we had a virtual session with a Holocaust survivor who spent over 1 ¾ hours with our Year 9s who were incredibly moved by the experience. We are coming to a point where there are only a few survivors left to share their tragic stories so thank you to Mr Bent for arranging the opportunity. It is important that we never forget!

## Keeping ourselves healthy before Christmas

All articles I am reading at the moment are suggesting that we are in the middle of a wave of illnesses related to viruses that have been in abeyance due to isolations over the last eighteen months. We already have children and staff with a horrible chest infection and some with stomach bugs.

Therefore, I am asking that we all practise regular hand sanitation. Please can you reinforce with your children the need for this. If you can help us by providing hand sanitiser for your children that will help us whilst we procure some more for school.

I will write to you separately this week about testing in the New Year and how the start of term will be organised.

### Standards

The PE department sent out a letter regarding PE kit a week ago. We are very proud of the way students look in PE lessons and especially proud when they go to other schools to represent us. It would be really helpful if kit is labelled with the child's name as we do get a lot of lost property that we are unable to give back to the rightful owners. Again, if any families are finding it difficult at the moment please let someone at school know. We are always more than happy to help find a solution. The PE department also have spare kit which is washed regularly that students can borrow for the lesson.

### PSHCEE

We have been delivering our PSHCEE lessons in a different way this year – instead of having drop down days we have instead done drop down hours. We have spoken to the students about their experience of this and the majority have said that they have preferred it. Please speak with your children about the topics they have been discussing. We have been impressed with the way in which they have dealt with some of the subject matter which has been quite hard hitting.



## **Punctuality**

Thank you to all parents who have supported us when their children have been given a late detention. I think it is important to remind your children that the two legal points in the day when we take the register formally are at morning registration and then again in Period 4. Some students have been shocked to find that they have a detention for missing their afternoon on time mark.

For students who have missed their detention for whatever reason we now have follow up sessions which increase to an hour (for those who had 20 minutes). The number of students who have been late has reduced in the last week but we intend to work hard to get this down to zero as any minute of lost learning, after all of the time we lost to the pandemic, is detrimental to progress.

## **Reading**

Our Thinking Reading training for staff is due to be completed next week. We will then be contacting parents of children who will be given the intensive support they need to become functional readers and then to improve their reading age further to meet their chronological age.

### **How can you help at home?**

Reading the text that your child is studying in English can be a great way to discuss characters, plot lines and themes together to support your child at home. Interpretation is an important skill for students to develop and talking about your thoughts with your child can help them with this. We study all sorts of texts from Shakespeare to Charles Dickens and at GCSE all students have a poetry anthology.

## **Railway safety**

Network rail have had to contact schools again about the number of young people who are trespassing on the local lines. Please can you remind your children of the dangers of going onto the tracks.

## **Road safety**

We have noticed a number of electric scooters being used by students to come to school. We have of course confiscated those we have seen as they are illegal modes of transport at the current time.

## **Dates for your diaries**

Just a reminder about things that are coming up

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Wykham Park Year 11 parents' evening

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Campus Year 13 parents' evening

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December

School finishes for Christmas at 3.05 p.m. (no early finish)

Yours sincerely



Sylvia Thomas

Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus