



Sir Graham Balfour School

Member of Sir Graham Balfour Multi-Academy Trust

Our Ref: LDB / VM

1st April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As ever, I hope this letter finds you well. Spring is definitely with us and the past couple of days have given us a foretaste of summer – a welcome change for us all. There are quite a few things I need to say, so I'll get straight on with it.

Lateral Flow tests

As you know, we break up for the Easter holidays today. Please continue to encourage your son/daughter to carry out the Lateral Flow Device tests which have been distributed this week. We are experiencing only a tiny number of positive cases via their use, and each, following a confirmatory official PCR test, has so far turned out to be negative. Fingers crossed it stays that way.

Positive Covid tests over the Easter weekend

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 in the days immediately following the end of term, please seek a PCR test as soon as possible. If that proves to be **positive**, please email us at: office@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk with the following details:

1. Your child's full name and Form Group
2. Your name and contact number
3. The date their symptoms commenced (if they had any)
4. The date of the confirmed positive test

Please do not phone the school during the Easter holiday as there will be no-one in to check the answerphone.

We will check this email inbox **at 11am each day**, up to and including the 5th April, after which positive cases will be dealt with via the NHS Test and Trace Service.

Where we are made aware of a positive case, our Covid response procedures will kick into place. If your child is identified as a close contact of an infected child, **we will contact you via text and email**, advising your child to self-isolate for the requisite number of days. Please do follow this guidance in line with the instructions under which we must all live at present.

If your child goes on to test positive at any other point during the holiday, or has to self-isolate due to someone in the family testing positive, you will not need to email us until Sunday 18th April, when we will next check the office@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk inbox. At that point, please let us know the date their self-isolation will end. If well enough to work, they will be able to access work from school.

Return to school

It has been brilliant to see the school full of young people again. Our attendance has been excellent, equalling the figure seen before the pandemic and well above the national figures. Our measures to keep people safe are definitely working and so they will continue until we are sure it is safe to do without them. Many thanks for your support with this, too.

The vast majority of our students have now settled really well into the routines and structures of school. They are working well with their teachers and enjoying being back with their friends. A very small number of students are still unsettled and struggling to adapt back to the formality of a school day. Where this is the case, we either have been, or will be in touch with you, asking for your support in helping your child to understand and accept the rules by which we must all work.

Progress report on the building of our new block

Following many months of planning, we are now at the point where work has begun on building the new 4-classroom block on our site. The contractors are on site, with full safety measures in place to keep everyone safe. We are very excited to watch the developments and hope to take ownership of our new block in the late summer.

Year 9 options meetings

We have the Year 9 Options Pathways meetings taking place in the w/b 19th April. These meetings are the formal launch of the Options process, where each student will meet with a senior member of staff to talk through it. The meetings are designed to give students the full range of information and advice that they need in order to make options choices which suit their aspirations and interests. Whilst we are very sorry that we cannot welcome parents or carers into school for these meetings, we can assure you that your child will come home with a detailed information pack, giving you all of the details about the process and the nature of the courses on offer. The member of staff who has the meeting with your child will also be available to contact all of the way through the process, if you have any questions or queries about any aspect of it.

Year 11 and 13 Easter support and revision sessions

Earlier this week, we sent out the timetable for when teachers will be in school next week to work on an individual or group basis with students across both years. I have enclosed this for your information at the end of this letter. Please do encourage your son/daughter to come in and make the most of these opportunities.

Appointment of new Deputy Headteacher

I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Metcalfe has been promoted to Deputy Headteacher from after Easter. She will take the lead for all matters pastoral, working closely with our House Heads, House Tutors and all our staff closely connected with elements of pastoral care. We wish her all the best in this new post.

End of term

School finishes for all today at 3.10 and will re-open on Monday 19th April. Please ask your children to check their timetables, as they will need to come to school in their PE kits again, on the days they have it on their timetable. Other than those days, they are to wear full school uniform as normal. Please ask them to check their pencil cases and make sure they have all the required kit for the start of term.

And finally...

At the end of another very challenging term, full of highs and lows, I want to thank you for your support of the children and of the school. Your resilience and patience have been brilliant and you have done a smashing job of home schooling. We all sincerely hope you will not be called upon to do this again, now that so many of us are being vaccinated.

I wish you a peaceful and relaxing Easter break.



Lesley Beck

Very proud Headteacher of Sir Graham Balfour School

Dear students in Year 11 and 13

Below you will find details of which teachers are coming in to support you next week. We have listened to what you have said, regarding what will help you the most next week and so have given a good deal of flexibility to you. Please do come in and make the most of this great opportunity to build your confidence and your evidence files prior to the final half term and your assessments.

There may not be formal sessions, but your teachers are there to help and support you on the days set out below. Some teachers may ask you to work with them to complete particular assignments. Other teachers will be circulating study rooms to offer help and explanations. Other teachers will be in specialist Art/Music/Drama/Science/Tech etc rooms working with you on NEA/practicals/controlled assessments. Talk to them this week in lessons over what will be most helpful to you. Some will directly approach you this week too, especially those of you who need more support or who have to catch up with missing work.

There are four days, each running from 9.30-1.00. It is a really good use of your time and you will still have afternoons free. Mrs Metcalfe has set out some guidelines for the week:

- Students should attend for the whole session 9.30 until 1.00pm. No dropping in and out.
- Students can work in small study groups of 4 to 6 max – teachers do reserve the right to separate students who are distracting one another
- Students can listen to music on ear phones when working independently but there is to be no music playing directly from devices
- There will be a formal break at 11.00 until 11.15 – the dining room will not be open for food, so please bring your own.
- Sessions for Year 11 will primarily take place in the Year 10 and 11 corridors; the Sixth Form and maths corridor will be used for Year 13 students
- Students can wear their own clothes
- Food should not be eaten in classrooms
- Classrooms should be left tidy at the end of the day
- We do reserve the right to send home anyone who is messing around and ruining the days for everyone

Tuesday 6 th April	Wednesday 7 th April	Thursday 8 th April	Friday 9 th April
Mrs Metcalfe (History) Miss Domuradzka (German) Mrs Thorndyke (Spanish) Miss Kempa (Science/Chemistry) Miss Lavelle (Science/Physics) Mrs Hales (Food/Tech/Child Development) Miss Bunter (Maths) Mrs Healey (Science/Physics) Mrs Giles (English)	Miss Marshall (PE/Health & Social) Miss Tranter (Science/Chemistry) Mr Metcalfe (Maths) Miss Brinsdon (Science/Biology) Mr Rowley (English) Mrs Johnston (History) Mrs Hart (Art) Mr Lewin (Science/Physics) Mr Trenbirth (PE) Mr Wass (Geography)	Mrs Beck (French/German) Mr Wright (Science/Chemistry) Miss McKinley (Drama) Miss Cooper (Textiles/Tech) Mrs March (Philosophy & Ethics) Mr Parry (French) Miss McConnachie (History) Mr Cooper (Maths) Mr Hancock (Business)	Miss Chapman (PE) Miss McKinley (Drama) Mr Chamberlain (Travel & Tourism/Enterprise) Miss Mitchell (Tech) Miss Fisher (Art) Mr Field (Music) Miss Allright (English) Miss Watson (PE) Mr Martin (History)