28TH April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have shown and the messages you have sent us over the last week as we continue to mourn the passing of Mr Stones. Your understanding at such a difficult time is deeply appreciated. As we said last week, professional support services remain available for students and, should your child require any such help, please do not hesitate to contact their Pastoral Learning Manager or Head of Year.

Senior Prefect Team

It is the time of year when we sincerely thank our outgoing Senior Prefect Team, most recently made up of Catherine Booth, Eamon O'Boyle, Hayden Turner, Philippa Burrows-Hodge, Salma Elkasier, Kian Watkins, Rebecca Harrison and Dylan White. They have not only been exceptional ambassadors for the Academy, but have also worked tirelessly to ensure effective systems are in place for our older students to support our younger students. After presentations and a rigorous interview process, I would like to both congratulate and introduce the new Senior Prefects for 2022-23. The team will be led by Poppy Clarke and Alistair Niclair, alongside their deputies Karen Rubello and Esme Keogh; and supported by Chloe Bancroft, Alice Herring, Joshua Johnson and Krzysztof Rozga. They will begin their roles with immediate effect, and I know they will be introducing themselves to our younger students very soon.

New staff

With Module 5 under way, I am delighted to introduce two new members of teaching staff who started at the Academy last week. Joining our Technology department is Miss Nuttall, while Miss Masterman joins our Modern Foreign Languages department. I am confident our students will make them both feel very welcome.

Current Department for Education (DfE) Covid Guidance

The government has recently updated its national and school guidance on the next steps for living with Covid. Below, in italics, are key sections of the information published by the DfE, which you may find helpful.

"The population now has much stronger protection against Covid-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination

programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

"This will mean:
- *Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.*
- *Children and young people aged 18 and under with a positive Covid-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days.*
- *Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.*
- *Adults with a positive Covid-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious."*

The academy can confirm that government guidance also states that self-test kits should no longer be issued to students.

Start and End of the Day
If you wish to drop off or collect your child by car, please do use the Cross O'Cliff entrance and not Clayton Road and Urban Street.

Thank you, once again, for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Hopkinson

Headteacher