

30th April 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for your continued support throughout this quite unique academic year. The summer term is in full swing and I thought this was a good time to let you know about a few important things that are happening over the coming weeks and months.

Teacher training day and holidays

May Day Bank holiday is on **Monday May 3rd**, when school will be closed to all students.

We are holding a teacher training day on **Friday 21st May**, when school will be closed to all students, reopening on Monday 24th May for the final week of the half term.

School will close for half term break on **Friday 28th May** and reopen on Monday 7th June.

GCSE, A-Level and Vocational Qualifications

Teachers are working hard with GCSE, A-level and vocational students in years 11 and 13 to ensure they have the evidence needed to award them the final grades they deserve. The coming weeks are hugely important to all students in those year groups, and to our year 12 students resitting English and maths, as we can't award grades without work at the right standard. Thank you to parents and carers for ensuring that students remain focused, working hard and making the most of their study time both in and out of school in this crucial final push.

Testing

Please help us to keep everyone as safe as possible by making sure your child adheres to the testing schedule if they are in year 7 and above. That means taking a test every Sunday and Wednesday, and reporting the results both to the NHS Track and Trace website and directly to us via the school webform.

Uniform

We believe that uniform is key part of school life. In school, all students are treated the same and wearing a uniform that makes them equal gives them a sense of identity and belonging. Thank you for ensuring that our young people attend each day in full uniform, ready to learn. They look both incredibly smart and proud of being a member of their school.

In line with the vast majority of secondary schools both locally and nationally, we intend to extend our uniform to include a standard PE kit from September. The kit has been selected by our PE staff for its durability and value, and supported by students for its colour scheme and modern fit.

I will send more details and prices in a separate letter next week, but students can choose shorts, track pants or leggings to match the required T-shirt. A long sleeved top can be purchased but is not compulsory.

I know that, in the current economic climate, keeping costs down is key and I can assure you value for money was one of the key drivers when we selected our PE uniform.

As a price guide, the basic kit of t-shirt and shorts costs between £14.15 and £15.30 depending on size, with a t-shirt and leggings or track pants costing between £21.25 and £25.25.

Rachel Parks

Many of you will remember and have incredibly fond memories of Rachel Parks who taught at JCSC and Coquet High School for 27 years before her retirement last summer. It is with huge sadness I have to inform

you that, following a lengthy and courageous battle with illness, Rachel sadly passed away peacefully this week, surrounded by her family.

Rachel embodied the ethos and spirit of our school and its community with her care and affection for the students and her workmates. She was a warm, funny and caring colleague who leaves behind a legacy of happy memories in the hundreds, if not thousands, of former students whose lives have been positively affected by her actions.

Rachel was an active member of the community, who tirelessly brought countless opportunities into school to benefit our young people. She was a loving wife and mother whose own children gained from the school ethos and culture she worked so hard to develop. She was our colleague and our friend, and we miss her.

I know that we will pull together as a community to support Rachel's family and in the near future we will decide upon an appropriate way to celebrate Rachel's life and unwavering dedication to our school.

Please do keep in touch with us, and make sure you check our Facebook page– it's updated regularly with all the essential information.

If you have any comments or questions, email us – we're always happy to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Rodgers". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Neil Rodgers
Executive Headteacher