

NR/LH

8 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

They say time flies when you're having fun and that must be true, as we're rapidly approaching the end of the first half term of the academic year.

Our young people continue to be a source of great pride to us and, I am sure, you too. Their uniform, punctuality and behaviour continue to be excellent. Thank you for your support with this – it's very much appreciated.

Last week saw students in Key Stage 2 and 3 engage in their RE days – two full days of learning about different religions and their customs. At the same time, key stages 4 and 5 took part in study skills sessions which started with a motivational talk from ex-pupil Dr Simon Scullion. After that, our GCSE students had some extended time with their English, maths and science teachers while the sixth formers completed activities designed to ensure success in their A-levels or vocational qualifications.



(RE drop down activity)

One of the highlights of the year is always the open evening which, following a more low-key event last year (thanks to covid), returned to its usual format with a bang last Thursday evening. It was the busiest open evening I've experienced and the feedback was universally positive. Our teaching and support staff were their usual professional and approachable selves, but the real stars of the evening were our students who'd volunteered to help out the staff and speak to our visitors.



When I spoke to the audience in the hall I suggested some key questions they might pose to our students during their tour of the school. Questions like "do you feel safe and looked after?", "do you enjoy your lessons?" and "what would you do if you needed some help or support?" were the things I asked when I was looking for the right school for my daughters and I thought they would be important to our prospective parents too. If you or someone you know were unable to attend the open evening or would like to visit the school during its normal working hours to see what we're typically like, please get in touch with us and we would be delighted to show you around.

Executive Headteacher: Neil Rodgers



(Parent artwork from our recent Year 5 Parent Day)

Indeed, some parents of our Year 5 students attended school for the day a few weeks back and got a student's perspective of a day at JCSC including lessons, school lunches and playing out. It's something we've done for several years now, and it's always a highlight in the calendar. We find it allows parents to come and speak to us informally in a small group whilst getting to know first-hand how we teach and care for their children.

Speaking about caring for students, Mrs Stewart said a fond farewell to JCSC last Friday after spending over two years as our Pastoral Support Officer for years 5 and 6. I know parents will join me in thanking Mrs Stewart for her compassion, hard work and good humour during our time with us, and wish her well for the future. We have recently extended our pastoral team by recruiting a fifth PSO, who will join us shortly. Mrs Stewart's remit at the lower school site is shared by Mrs Hills and Ms Dryden, who now oversee the care of students in years 5 to 8 between them. Speaking of pastoral matters and contact with parents, we've updated the My Child at School (MCAS) app so that you will receive details of any issued C1 and C2 warnings alongside C3 and C4s, which you should already get.

After School Club launches on Monday and you should have received more details about that in separate communications. We hope that this facility will assist working parents and be an enjoyable activity for the children. Please get in touch with us for more details.

Lastly, covid continues to be something that we have to deal with daily – and it shows no signs of slowing just yet. Can I remind you of the basic things that we are asking all staff and students to abide by to minimise the risk of spreading this dangerous and highly contagious virus:

Hand Hygiene - We ask students to wash their hands regularly and continue to provide hand sanitiser

Testing - Staff continue to take part in twice-weekly LFT testing. Although this is not a mandatory requirement for children, we ask that you help us to keep our community safe by encouraging and helping your child to test regularly. We need you to let us know asap if:

- **Your child has symptoms.** Keep them off school. Book a PCR test and contact the office to let us know. Let the school know the outcome of your child's result before they return to school.
- **Your child tests positive for Covid-19.** Keep them off school. Send your PCR result to school. Let the school office know.
- **Someone in your household/a close contact has tested positive for Covid-19.** The positive person must self-isolate. You will need to book a PCR test for your child if they have been a close contact. Your child can continue to attend school unless they develop symptoms or return a positive PCR result. Ring the school reception to let us know that the close contact has tested positive, but your child will be attending school. If your child develops symptoms or returns a positive PCR test, you must keep them off school.
- **NHS test and trace have advised that your child must self-isolate.** Ring the school reception and let us know.

As ever, if you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Best wishes,

Mr Neil Rodgers
Executive Headteacher