

Dear Parents and Carers

Today represents the final day of our first whole half-term of full opening since before Christmas. I am delighted to report that it has been a very positive one as our students continue to engage with learning while faced with COVID-based restrictions. We were all relieved to see the face mask guidance change on 17 May 2021 and we dearly hope that further restrictions in school can be removed on 21 June 2021.

I would like to thank our students for continuing to fully engage with our safety measures and protect the local community. It is no mere coincidence that we have seen a minimal number of COVID cases in school over this half-term. Furthermore, I would like to thank our Year 11 and 13 students for their maturity, resilience and diligence when asked to provide evidence for the Teacher Assessment Grading process. We are highly confident they will receive the fantastic grades they deserve.

A new half-term always represents a period where we can all set ourselves new targets and even higher expectations. Lockdown easing will provide our students with fewer distractions enabling a greater focus on aspirations and learning.

In order to support your child and to avoid sanctions being given, I would appreciate you discussing the expectations on uniform and punctuality detailed below and, if need be, that you take time over the break to replace any trainers with shoes, and any skirts that are too short with new ones that are unaltered and are of an appropriate length for school.

Uniform

We are incredibly proud of the strong tradition of our school uniform. When all students wear their uniform correctly, we encourage a sense of unity and pride, so that all students feel they are part of our community. We very much want our students to make the right choices about how they wear their uniform, because they have high expectations and aspirations for themselves and of those around them. The vast majority of our students do wear their uniform correctly and they rightly expect the school to challenge those who do not.

- **School Blazer** - School regulation green blazer, with official school badge (compulsory and must be worn at all times)
- **School Clip-on Tie**
- **Skirt or Trousers** - School regulation black knee-length skirt with official school logo worn correctly, or black school regulation trousers with official school logo
- **Shirt** - Formal white, long sleeves with stiff collar
- **Jumper/Cardigan** - School regulation, green V-neck with official school logo (non-compulsory and may not be worn without a blazer). **Please note that sweatshirt material garments and hoodies are not permitted.**
- **Socks/Tights** - Plain black ankle socks or tights

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- **Shoes** - Plain black lace-up or slip-on formal shoes. Please note that boots, trainers, fabric/pump style shoes are not permitted
- **Coat** - Plain dark raincoat, duffel or anorak (non-compulsory). A **discrete** logo is permissible. Coats are generally not to be worn in or around school during the working day. Denim and leather jackets are not permitted.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor should you need any further support, especially when we are acutely aware that this continues to be a challenging time financially for some families, any communication will be treated with due sensitivity and in confidence.

Punctuality

Students are expected to be lining up for tutor set at 8:25 am. We lock the school gates at 8:25 am. After this time, any students have to enter the site via main reception and sign in late.

To improve punctuality to lessons, we ask students to go to the toilet before school or during break times and lunchtimes. Teachers do not give permission to students during lesson time unless there is a valid medical reason that has been shared with the school by families.

COVID-19 testing over May half-term

As lockdown eases, taking a rapid COVID-19 test twice a week, will help us stay ahead of the spread of the virus, particularly as new strains appear. Around one in three people with COVID-19 have no symptoms and are spreading the virus without knowing. This includes those who have had their vaccine.

We want to thank you for your continued support in testing. We ask that our students continue to test twice-weekly over half-term and test before returning to school or college after the holiday.

The result of a rapid test could be positive, negative or even void. Whatever the result, please report it straight away via the NHS site, and the school system found using this link:

www.toothillschool.co.uk/home-test-result

Recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond.

Contact tracing over May half-term

Where students test positive for COVID-19 during half-term, having developed symptoms more than two days since being in school or college, there is no action and no need to contact the school. In this case, Students, parents and carers should simply follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. However, where students test positive having developed symptoms within two days of being in school or college, please contact the school via the email below so we can identify close-contacts in school:

Email: reportc19@toothillschool.co.uk

I wish your child a fantastic and well-deserved break and I hope you spend some quality family time together

Yours sincerely



Dr C Eardley
Head of School