

29th January, 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Update 44

I've blinked, and another week has flown by! It's duly time for another edition of our weekly *Update* to bring you up-to-speed with our ongoing provision during a time when our site is closed to so many of our students.

We continue to open daily for a few dozen students who are allowed to be in school, and they (like everyone else) are able to access live lessons in most subjects throughout the school week. Those of us onsite do miss the 'buzz' you normally get in a school, with so many young people willingly coming together to learn; but hopefully the 'buzz' is still there virtually.

I also miss the many opportunities we had pre-Covid to talk about the deeper aspects of life with our students – for example, through Assemblies. The week before last, for example, was one that many Christians mark as the week of Christian Unity, and that's often something on which we've reflected in our Assemblies at this time of year. Our foundation is Anglican, but our intake is genuinely multi-denominational (and multi-faith) – so it's always a pertinent topic for us!

I was particularly struck by one of the prayers suggested for this year: *“God our Father, you reveal to us your love through Christ, and through our brothers and sisters. Open our hearts so that we can welcome each other with our differences and live in forgiveness. Grant us to live united in one body, so that the gift that is each person comes to light. May all of us together be a reflection of the living Christ”*. A prayer to welcome each other *“with our differences”* and to *“live in forgiveness”* seems particularly appropriate in these difficult times.

Well-Being Day, Friday 5th February

Our concern for the whole child – spiritual, mental and physical – has led us to reflect on the fact that many of our students may (unavoidably) have had a more-than-healthy amount of screen-time this term. We've therefore set aside next Friday, 5th February – the last day of a week we've set aside to think particularly about children's Mental Health – as a Well-Being Day. So on Friday 5th:

- no live lessons will take place, and no work will be set;
- students will be given some well-being activities to engage with (such as exercise, baking, reading, maybe a Covid-safe community service challenge) – and will be encouraged to keep a short diary of their day; and
- school will still be open to those who need to attend, but the hours will be the same for everyone in Years 7 to 10 – 9am to 3pm (Year 11 will enjoy their usual 'short day', 10:30am to 2pm).

Mr Lawton and Mrs Penketh will be leading the day and will be sending out details about suggested activities early next week. I'm sure we'll all benefit from a break from the ongoing cycle of screen-based activities!

National News: Return to school, and this summer's exams

I'm sure many readers will have heard (or seen) the Prime Minister's announcement this week that schools will continue to be closed to most students until March 8th at the earliest. We haven't been told much more than that at this stage, but over the next couple of weeks we will begin planning

for a return to school then. One key part of those plans will be for students and staff to be tested regularly; we are continuing to plan to work with the City Council to deliver this onsite.

A short consultation period about GCSEs, BTECs and 'A'-levels closed today, and we've been told that there will be further clarifications about what will be put in place at the end of February. I know that many of our older students would probably appreciate clarity before that, but nationally that is the current timeframe. If you'd like to see the main secondary school leaders' Trade Union's views on how things could work, it's worth looking at their proposals (in Section C [here](#)).

Social Media

Dr Silverstone writes:

“Over the coming weeks I will be sharing with you some advice and guidance on a range of topics from [Thinkuknow](#), an education programme from the National Crime Agency's CEOP command. They offer a range of services to prevent children from coming to harm online and from becoming victims of abuse or exploitation.

*“This first instalment is about **social media**.*

“You may be wondering when is the best age to let your child have a social media account, or have some concerns if they're already using them. For advice and guidance, read [Is your child ready for social media?](#) Remember, most social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age before they can register.

“Most young people have positive experiences socialising online, but it can be easy for young people to share things or post things they wish they hadn't. The simplest way to have information about your child removed from a website, or app is to contact the site itself. Read [reporting to social media sites](#) for more information.

“Social media can offer young people opportunities to express themselves and have fun, but they could be exposed to harmful content which might include sexual images or videos which could impact on their understanding of sex and relationships. For information, read [Teens and the sexual content on social media](#)”.

Safer Internet Day will this year take place on Tuesday 9th February, and there'll be more details about this in next week's *Update*.

Letter from Steve Reddy and Matt Ashton

Liverpool's Director of Children's Services, Steve Reddy, and Director of Public Health, Matt Ashton, have again written to all Liverpool parents about the latest Coronavirus developments. Their letter is going out with this *Update*.

As ever, do get in touch if there's any way in which we can support your family, or your child, at this time. We know lockdowns and home learning can take their toll, and we're here to help.

Until next week,

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley
Principal.