Principal’s Update – 01 October 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

We are just receiving the latest update regarding tighter Covid restrictions for Merseyside, Halton and Warrington and are expecting that as per previous guidance, schools and colleges will be exempt from any further restrictions. We will await further details and update you if required.

I have sent all students a message this morning.

The message to L6th passes on best wishes from their old high schools and encouragement to continue the great start they have made. Several staff at Carmel sit on the governing bodies of our partner high schools. We have been at governing meetings this week and I have also been in several meetings with school Head Teachers. Many of them have asked us to pass on their best wishes to our new Year 12 and for the journey at Carmel. They want students to know that the staff and governors at their old schools are still thinking about them and I know many schools are still planning to try and get them back in to celebrate properly following the students completion of Year 11.

The Upper 6th student update focuses on preparing for life after Carmel College. Our Carmel UCAS (University Application) deadline is just after the October half term holiday. I have asked all the Upper 6th to consider applying to University as at least one post Carmel option. Students are not committing themselves by signing up for UCAS, just giving themselves options and can apply for up to 5 different Universities and/or courses. The PATs and Careers teams are always ready to offer advice and support whenever college is open. We are also supporting applications to apprenticeships and employment and we do try to ensure that all students have a number of options available to them by the time we get to the mock exams in January.

Covid Update

We still have a very small number of students and staff directly affected by Covid. Since the start of term, we have had 7 positive tests amongst students from over a college of 2300 learners. There has had one positive test amongst the 89 teachers - however as a precaution we have asked a number of students and staff to self-isolate.

Lessons will continue online at the usual time if a student’s teacher is away. We have provided all staff with the necessary IT equipment to enable this and very often this will mean the class still sitting in their classroom with other staff supporting the lesson whilst the isolating teacher teaches from the interactive whiteboard. In some cases, students will also be able to access the lesson remotely.

We will be supporting any students who need to be away from college for a while.
For the vast majority of the college it will business as usual and there is still no evidence of any transmission within the college - BUT you will be aware that Covid continues to rise across Merseyside.

I have asked all students today to please play their part –

- Try and keep the 2-metre distance whenever you can
- Regularly wash and sanitise your hands when you enter and leave college and throughout your stay
- Please wear a face covering whenever you are inside or in crowded places
- We would now suggest wearing a face covering in lessons as well, whilst the rate is so high across Merseyside.

Can I please remind you all to log in and regularly check Parent Connect (link available at the top right on the college website - www.carmel.ac.uk)

For Upper 6th parents, the MAPP 6 progress information will be going on Connect next week.

As we will be unable to carry out face-to-face consultations this term, we are also planning to send all Upper 6th students a written progress report for Review 2 in each of their subjects later this month.

We are also planning to offer all students a remote face-to-face consultation (with the option for parents to join) in each subject in December. This will be an opportunity to give detailed, individual feedback on each student’s progress on their course, their emerging key strengths, key areas for improvement and guidance to help prepare for the mock exams in January 2021.

Can I also encourage parents to follow the college through one of our social media channels. Today we have launched our Virtual Open Event and you may be interested in having a ‘visit’ yourselves.

I will send another update next week or earlier if anything major re local and regional lockdowns is announced.

Stay safe


Mike Hill
Principal