Principal’s Update – 10th February 2021

Dear students, parents and carers,

We all feel a bit in limbo this week, waiting for further information about both the reopening of schools and colleges after half term and updates on the summer exams for Years 11 and 13. For now there is no new news, we await the promised route map out of restrictions from the Prime Minister scheduled for 22nd February (Monday after the half term holiday) and we are still planning for the possibility of some face to face teaching from the 8th March.

Whilst Covid numbers at college remain very low, the rate of infection is still stubbornly high in our local area and there are now concerns about these new variants (both St Helens and Knowsley remain in the top 5 nationally for rates of infection) - so please continue to follow all the guidance about staying safe.

One of the steps towards students returning to college, will potentially be the offer of a Lateral Flow Covid test to all students, (this are done via a swab and give a result in around 30 minutes)

We have had a testing centre set up at college for the last month and we have been doing up to 100 tests a week on those staff and students attending college. We have a plan in place to scale up this testing when required and as part of this we will need to seek consent of anyone opting for a test.

We don’t require parental consent for anyone over 16 years of age, as the view is that at this age individuals can make their own decision, however it is recommended for those aged 16-18 the consent is discussed with parents and carers – we will be sending a copy of the consent form to all parents/carers before the end of this week, this is just for information and does not need to be returned.

We have an online, electronic version of the consent form on the College Connect pages and this will be completed before a student comes for their test, for now we are just informing you of this as an intention – there will be no mandatory requirement to have a test and as always, the guidance may change as we get closer to any possible return to college date.

Carmel Wellbeing

A reminder that following on from our Student Well Being Day last week – Get Active Carmel returns again this week - the workouts are delivered from a variety of instructors and will be live and then saved for later use on the YouTube channel (Link Below)

The first one will be live Wednesday 10th Feb at 5pm and can be done in your home with no equipment and limited space.
Get Active Carmel YouTube Channel - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4iFv1djn0m-eaLbk4Lbg

Further updates

I will post a video update for students, parents and carers at the end of this week to conclude this half term – we will send the YouTube link out on Friday and the video will also be on College website and social media channels. A reminder that college is closed for the half term holiday week and live lessons will commence again at 9am on Monday 22rd February.

Kind regards

[Signature]

Mike Hill
Principal