23rd April 2021

Carmel College Principal’s Update – Friday 23 April

Dear students, parents and guardians

We have had a great week back in college after the Easter break. The fine weather has really allowed us all to enjoy our beautiful campus and with the trees and plants starting to show their colours it feels like we are now heading back to normality at some pace.

I am pleased to report that we currently have no positive Covid cases amongst the college community. No staff are having to self-isolate and just five students are currently away from college as someone in their family/bubble has symptoms. The reported Covid infection rate for this week in St Helens is 14.4 per 100,000, which is the lowest it has been since this time last year and this is even more remarkable when you think that just a couple of months ago the rate was 870/100,000 in our area.

Can I please ask that everyone continues to consider carrying out their twice weekly Lateral Flow tests. We will continue to provide testing packs for all students; it does look likely that access to sporting and music events and festivals over the summer will require evidence of lateral flow testing, so it is important that we do all take the opportunity to keep home testing.

Upper 6th students are now focused on completing and finalising the Teacher Assessment Grades (TAG’s) that replace this summer’s exams. We will be sending out more information about this to all Upper 6th parents and students next week and are required to post our TAG Centre Policy on our website by the end of this month. Many thanks also to all the parents who joined us for the Review 3 parents’ evening on Wednesday. We hope this was a useful in explaining the process we are taking.

The vast majority of parents and students seem to have had a positive experience with the School Cloud system that we have used for parents’ evenings this year. We are now starting to plan for the next academic year and will be asking staff, students and parents about the things we have learnt from the last 12 months and the practices and approaches we may continue to use, so please do look out for surveys and questionnaires we will be sending out soon.

Lower 6th students - as I mentioned at the end of last term, we would really like to focus on enrichment and careers this summer term. We are putting together a range of enrichment activities that will start soon and I would encourage you all to consider choosing an activity. Please see Carmel Connect or ask you PAT about these. We will also start discussing with all our Lower 6th students their plans for post college and start the university application process later this term. Careers and HE information days are scheduled for later this term and a reminder that our Careers team are always available when college is open to support students with ideas about their next steps.

Wishing everyone a great weekend

Best wishes

Mike Hill