24th September 2021

Carmel College Principal’s Update

Dear all

Just a quick update at the end of another busy week at Carmel. It was good to speak, if only virtually to many of our new parents on Wednesday night at our Welcome event. Please follow the link to view the Welcome meeting [https://youtu.be/TSkqKohOGrE](https://youtu.be/TSkqKohOGrE). We will be posting a video of this on the college website and in the Connect parent portal as soon as possible. The Parent’s Guide has also been updated and this can be accessed via the College main website (look under the ‘information for parents’ section).

Could I also encourage all parents and guardians to make sure they have access to the Connect parent portal; again, there are links to this site on the main college website. This will give you access to the progress, attendance, timetable and any meetings we have had with your son or daughter.

Covid Update

Whilst numbers of positive tests remain low at the college, we are aware of the growth of positive cases in many of our local high schools and the knock-on effect this can have on Carmel families. A number of college staff have also had to stay away from college this week. Our guidance remains the same:

- Please do consider carrying out two lateral flow tests per week – we have home testing kits available every day in the college student entrance,
- If students (and staff) feel unwell we do ask them to stay away from college. If they feel they may have Covid symptoms, please request a PCR test (College PAT’s can help with this).
- If a family member tests positive: if you are feeling OK and have no symptoms we do ask that you also take a PCR test and if this is negative you can then return to college.
- In all cases please keep in contact with your tutors at college; we will work to ensure that students are supported.

If students are just suffering from the usual ‘normal’ ailments and are likely to be off college for only a day or two we will not offer online learning unless this is going to be an extended absence. In these cases, staff will ensure resources and work are sent to the student. If in doubt please contact the PAT team and they will help co-ordinate the support students may need.

We continue to advise all students and staff to consider wearing a face covering when they are moving around college and/or in busy areas and a face covering is offered to every student as they arrive at college each day.

Our Enrichment Programme has now started and this is one of the great aspects of college life we have really missed over the last year. We are really keen to ensure that all students have the opportunity to take up one of the options – a full list is available on Carmel Connect.
Upper 6th students are also working hard on their next steps after Carmel. Please be reminded that the UCAS application deadline is the end of this half term. We also encourage any student thinking about an apprenticeship or employment route to book a careers session and look at work experience or placement options. I am glad to report that the college is now able to offer students external placements alongside the virtual work placements we have offered over the past year.

Finally, a small plea from me. We are about to start our cycle of recruiting new students. The college is planning to run the Open events face-to-face later this term and these events are now being advertised. Applications to join the college in September 2022 open on 1st October 2021. If you have any family or friends that may be considering Carmel could you direct them to the applicant’s section on the website. A virtual Open event will also be running from the start of October.

**Upcoming Key dates and Events**

**U6/Y13 Consultation Evening: Monday 18th October 2021 14:00-19:30**
The U6/Y13 Consultation Evening is to be held on Monday 18th October between 14:00 - 19:30. The event will be remote and operated via SchoolCloud software; we will shortly be sending out booking instructions.

Week commencing 27th September - Upper 6th Internal Exams/Assessments
Week commencing 4th October - Upper 6th MAPP 6 progress point will be available

Week commencing 11th October - Lower 6th Internal Assessments
Week commencing 18th October - Lower 6th MAPP 1 progress point will be available

Have a good weekend

Mike
Principal