Dear students, parents and guardians

Just a quick update at the end of another busy week at Carmel. It was good to welcome so many Year 11 students and their families to the College’s first Open Event of the year on Wednesday. It felt like another real tangible step back towards normality – but also reminded me of what our current Lower 6th students and families missed out when it was all carried out virtually last year. We are holding another two events after half term on Tuesday 2nd November in the evening and the morning of Saturday 13th November. These events will have no effect on the normal College day or transport.

Can I remind students and parents that key information especially about any changes to college operation or events being held at college are posted daily on the Carmel Connect Homepage. We do often send out emails and information via ParentMail but our philosophy is to try to provide information as it happens rather than constantly push it out. We do ask students to log onto Connect daily on their phone and parents can see these updates by following the ‘Log into Connect link’ on the college website (not via parent view).

I have spoken to a number of parents and students over the last week about transport issues to and from college. Unfortunately, we are being challenged by the nationwide impact of Covid, shortage of HGV and PSV drivers and other issues such as the time it is taking to get DBS clearance once drivers are recruited. You will appreciate much of this is out of the college’s control, however we are in daily contact with all our transport providers and we have told them we share your concerns and must see an improved service after half term. Unfortunately, at this moment, we do not have a lot of other options to move services. This is something we are raising with Mersey Travel and the Liverpool City Region. Please do keep the college informed of specific issues and routes and if you have time I would also ask you to consider raising your own complaints (see below).

‘If your complaint relates to Local Public Services contact the Local Government Ombudsman at www.lgo.org.uk or phone 0300 061 0614 If your complaint relates to a rail service contact the Rail Ombudsman at www.railombudsman.org or phone 0300 094 0362 If your complaint relates to bus services contact Bus Users UK at www.bususers.org or phone 0300 111 0001’
COVID Update

Cases have now declined significantly and we should be in single figures of positive cases next week. Can I thank you all again for the way you have supported the college with our current Covid mitigation approach – but please keep testing!

Can I also just repeat again the point I made in my last update. 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 require /offer online learning unless this is going to be extended absence. Staff will ensure resources and work is sent out. As always if in doubt contact the PAT’s and they will help co-ordinate the support which may be needed.

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; we offer a face covering to every student as they arrive at college every day.

Half Term

A reminder that the student term finishes at 4pm Tuesday next week (19th October). Staff will be in college on the Wednesday, as will those Year 0 and Foundation Learning students that are normally in on a Wednesday. College will then be closed until Monday 1st November. You will appreciate that the term for many of our staff actually started on the 9th August with the very early results week and we all need a well-deserved, extended break.

I will do a video update next week to finish off and reflect on the first half term.

Have a great weekend

Mike Hill
Principal

WHAT ELSE DO WE OFFER AT CARMEL?