



THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill
Purley
Surrey
CR8 3YP

4th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Christmas trees are up at school and along with our Christmas lights they are helping create a festive spirit. Thank you to all of you who have supported The John Fisher School Association by purchasing your Christmas trees from them. It has been another great week for attendance; thank you for showing such confidence in the systems we have in place at school this term and for sending your children in so regularly. Having such consistent attendance is really supporting the students' learning and helping close the gaps from 'lockdown'. I know I am repeating myself, but I feel I need to say this every week.

Covid-19

Unfortunately, we have had a staff member test positive for the coronavirus this week and a number of students are out of school as a result of a student testing positive as well. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that if a family member (parent, sibling or anybody else living in the family home) is presenting with Covid-19 symptoms, then students should stay at home while the family member goes through the testing process. Please ring us to let us know and we will mark your son as self-isolating, which will not count against their attendance.

Parents' Evenings

Now we have had our first online parents' evening (with Year 10), we are looking forward to the those which will take place in the first half term after the Christmas break. Whilst an online parents' event is unlike a traditional evening, it allows communication with a range of teachers over the evening. Year 13 parents' evening will take place on Thursday 21st January and Year 11 will have their parents' evening on Thursday 4th February. When the parents' evening for your son's year group is coming up, you will be contacted to explain how to make appointments and log on that evening.

Dress Code for Students Continues

I would not want our efforts to reduce Covid-19 infection to inadvertently result in students getting other infections such as colds, especially as we run up towards the Christmas break. It has been colder this week and some students are bringing coats to school which may not protect them completely from the cold or rain. Parents/carers are reminded that their sons should be wearing a black or navy coat ideally to school.

Act Early Campaign

Please see below the link to the new "Act Early" campaign, which was launched at the end of last month. This is a new website, which highlights the safeguarding role of the Police and is aimed at family and friends who are concerned that their loved ones are being radicalised. The campaign also hopes to dispel some of the myths associated with Prevent. There are links to material which can be printed off, together with access to online material to support the cascading of awareness across the Police partner agencies and into the community.

Act Early Campaign <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/actearlypartners/>

Online Tutors – Keeping Children Safe (LGfL) Guidance for Parents & Carers

Private tutors are used by families to support children catching up with missed work or address areas they are struggling with, or with extra-curricular activities like music. Lockdown has led to major growth in this area, especially online. Anyone can set up as a tutor and there are no registration procedures. They do not even require an Enhanced DBS check. To help parents, LGfL has prepared a leaflet supporting parents to select the right person, establish clear rules and help the child understand what they should know too.

You can find out more and download the guidance leaflet at the following link:

<https://safefblog.lgfl.net/2020/10/online-tutors-keeping-children-safe>

Examinations 2021

There has been ongoing uncertainty around next year's examinations. Building on the three-week delay to examinations, the Government announced the following this week:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so that students are not disadvantaged this year;
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision;
- examination aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- additional examinations to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation.

Fundraising

Please go to our 'Funding Fisher's Future Christmas Hampers' giving page to donate and help those families who need it most: £3,134.78 already raised! <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundingfishersfuture>.

Advent Epilogue

Please visit the following link to listen to the Advent Epilogue; preparing for Christmas.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7J2VVTM0cg>

Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday 16th December

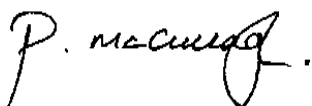
Students may wear their Christmas jumpers and casual clothes on Wednesday 16th December, in exchange for a minimum donation of £2. Parents/carers are asked to make their donations via ParentPay by the end of the day on Monday 14th December. All money raised will be donated to the 'Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day' campaign.

End of Term Arrangements

A reminder that term will end at normal time on Thursday 17th December for all students. Staff members will be in school on Friday 18th December but will have an earlier finish.

I will continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely,



P E McCullagh
Headteacher