

Dear all,

Hope you have had a good couple of weeks since the last bulletin. We remain pleased with our Year 8s on the whole, with lots of teachers still providing us with some really nice feedback about the year group - and I know a lot of you have received positive feedback directly from teachers as well. Also, I know we keep saying this, but we are so pleased with the attendance levels in school across Year 8 in spite of everything that is going on - as well as the real engagement we are seeing from students who are working from home due to self-isolation or similar. Well done!

You can't have failed to notice the drop in temperature as we approach December, and I've certainly spent two unhappy mornings this week scraping my car windscreen in the morning (the real pain is when it's so cold we have to scrape in the evening as well!). We are required to keep classroom windows and doors open to keep a steady airflow through the room, and so we are aware that the rooms are getting colder and colder. We are allowing students to wear coats where rooms are cold, providing they are in fully correct uniform underneath this (ie. the coat is in addition to CCS jumper and/or blazer, not instead of) - we recommend dressing in layers moving forward in order to regulate heat.

We have spent a large amount of time this week and last week dealing with incidents and issues where eventually it has been discovered that the information given by students initially was either not the full story, not completely true, or entirely fabricated. This then leads to uncomfortable conversations, as well as the time wasted following up on untruths that could better be spent dealing with genuine issues more quickly. We hope this is true of only a small minority of students, but we are grateful if you can support us by encouraging your children to be as honest and as comprehensive as possible when reporting any issues, and when they are passing information to yourselves please do encourage them to make sure they have given you the absolute full picture if you are making contact with the school.

Finally, the HPL focus for next week's lessons is connection finding - the ability to use connection from past experiences to seek possible generalisations. This is a crucial part of learning, especially with the more complex GCSEs that our Year 8s will be taking in a few years' time, so it will be good to see students engaging in this skill.

Have an enjoyable weekend,

Aaron Phillips & Emma Terry  
Assistant Principal & Progress Leader for Year 8