

## Coronavirus update – 26/06/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It seems unbelievable that we are now staring into the final week of this academic year, and what a year it has been! My end of term letter will come on Friday next week. In advance of that summary, you can read a fuller update from the Bursar on recent developments [HERE](#). As promised, we have now finished the 'Return to College' brochure, which I hope covers all your questions about our planned return in September. You can read it by clicking [HERE](#), and it can also be found in your Parent Portal. Do note the summer communication plan that is contained within this; a final notification of our return, and any necessary adjustments to it, will be released on 21 August. If necessary, I will write to you all with an interim update on 7 August. Aside from those dates, please do not expect any formal communication from the College before 21 August.

We have continued to support the phased return of various pupils this week: additional Junior School classes; Year 10 and Year 12 examinations and pastoral contact; supporting the children of key workers; providing additional academic and pastoral support to the more vulnerable. This support will continue into our last week of term. Year 12 will be having remote support with their Higher Education preparations next week, and we wish them well with that.

My congratulations to all prize-winners, who will have been notified of their success today. My address to these prize winners can be found [HERE](#). I am so sorry we are unable to celebrate your achievements with customary fanfare, but at least it is a prize you will likely never forget!

A reminder to all Year 11 and 13 that they have one more week to return any outstanding textbooks, otherwise these will be added to the fee bill. There is a very easy process in place for dropping these off at the College Office.

The Festival of Curiosity has been a resounding success this week. In 'Art and civilisation through time' the crimes and punishments of the Emperor Nero were hotly debated. In 'Do businesses behave ethically?' students held fruitful and fascinating discussions concerning the purpose of businesses and their obligations, including whose responsibility it is to watch out for the consumers – the question of childhood obesity was particularly vexed (is it the fast food outlets, parents, or the consumers of the burgers themselves who carry the moral responsibility?) In 'Viruses and pandemics' the students explored the maths behind the R value, and the implications of it being either above or below 1. Finally, in 'How far, how strong' resources available at home were used to build bridges and cars, and there has been imaginative use of kebab sticks, boxes of tissues, and even a bridge made entirely of sticks!

In the Junior School, we were absolutely delighted to welcome Year 2 and 4 back this week. It was, as always, another busy week of learning, whether in school or remotely. Our Nursery pupils became spider experts, including making their own webs, and Reception created their own obstacle courses in the Woodland Classroom. EYFS managed to spend some time cooling off from all the heat though, with both a water fight and by measuring and making Reception-friendly cocktails. Year 1 were thrilled by the return of Traction Man and inspired by his adventures planned their own Traction Man narratives, which we turned into comics. Pupils in lower KS2 went on a virtual farm tour as part of the new Year 3 IPC topic, 'What's on the menu?' They also spent time outside constructing their own bug hotels and we have had confirmation of some creepy crawly guests. This week Year 5 have been enjoying their live English lessons where they have become 'Ultimate Explorers' and have written some fantastic diary entries of their adventures. In IPC they have designed, mapped out and marketed their own Island Eco-Resort. Year 6 have embraced mathematical challenges, gained inspiration from famous inventors of the past and delved into some complex philosophical topics. If the week was not busy enough, we all ended with an action-packed House Fun Day! With one week to go, every House Point matters.

Finally, I am delighted to tell you that we have been shortlisted for the Co-educational Independent School of the Year 2020, as part of the Independent Schools Awards. Further information is available on our website [HERE](#). This is a fantastic achievement and one that endorses the enormous hard work from so many in positioning the College into the ambitious and forward-thinking community we enjoy today. The final result will be announced in October – keep your fingers crossed!

I do hope you all have a very good weekend and I wish you well for the final week of term.

Yours sincerely



Mr N P Hewlett  
Headmaster