



Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your children enjoyed the long weekend. Recent rainy days in school have proved a little more challenging but, largely, the good weather very much seems to have lifted the mood in the last few weeks. As ever though, please do get in touch with our pastoral team if you have any concerns.

Academic and co-curricular

Many congratulations are due to those Y12 students who gave their EPQ project presentations last week. From hearing a number of these myself, I know that breadth and depth of academic enquiry has been extraordinarily impressive. Meanwhile, I wish the best of luck to those Y11 and Y13 students who are now undergoing in-class assessments. In most cases I anticipate that these will confirm evidence that we already have for Teacher Assessed Grades, while allowing some to demonstrate improvement. Next week I will be writing to parents of these year groups to lay out the evidence that will be used for each subject and you will also receive a copy of the school's overall grading policy as soon as we have had it approved by the exam boards.

On the co-curricular front, it is tremendous to see a number of local sports fixtures starting to take place and giving us an early sense of returning to some semblance normality. While we have yet to receive clarity on the timescales for us being able relax more of the Covid measures that are in place, we are already actively working to ensure we have plans in place for when we can.

Some forthcoming events

In the meantime, as I mentioned in my update before the Easter holidays, instead of putting Y7 or Y8 students through the pressure of internal exams this year, we have planned a series of off-site outdoors activity days for both year groups. These replace the normal Y7 camp and make up for Y8 missing their camp last summer. Students will be split into three groups and will all participate in each of the following activities: Bushcraft and Survival Day, Coasteering, Archery and Canoeing. These days will take place between May 26th-28th for Y7 and June 14th-16th for Y8. More details will follow in due course and both of these year-groups will then also be involved in a project week beginning June 21st. We are also reviewing the possibility of Y9 and Y10 students taking part in an off-site activity day, potentially on June 22nd.

I should draw your attention to the online parents' conferences planned for Y7 on 24th June, Y12 on 30th June and for Y10 on 5th July. The penultimate week of the Summer Term (June 28th to July 2nd) will include prize assemblies and sports days in school for each Senior School year group, though I fear that the continued restrictions will mean we will be unable to invite parents to these. As last year, however, we are then planning an online "RGS day" event on the evening of Friday 2nd July to reflect on the collective experience of the last year and celebrate the positive things that we have achieved as a community this year.

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Staff v Parent Cricket

While large gatherings may not be possible, the 'not so annual' annual staff v parents cricket match will take place next month! If any parents are keen to get involved in a game of T20 cricket against the staff, please email team manager, Mukesh Madhavan, for further information (drmukeshm@yahoo.com). The match, which is a very relaxed affair, will take place at 6pm on Thursday 17th June at Jesmond Cricket ground.

Bike Security

On a more prosaic note, while we very much encourage students cycling to school, unfortunately there have been two recent bike thefts within the school area. As a result, we have been emphasising the importance of bike security to students. I would appreciate it if you could help us to reinforce the message that students should make sure they bring bikes on-site and lock them up within the school grounds. We do not advise students to leave bikes locked up at the metro or on the railings outside of school.

ONA magazine Finally, I would like to let you know that Issue 109 of the ONA magazine is available to read [here](#). The edition has a strong focus on the Junior School which I hope you will enjoy reading about. If you would prefer a hard copy of the magazine, this can be collected by students from the main reception.

With best wishes and Eid Mubarak,

Geoffrey Stanford

Headmaster