



30 March 2021

Dear Parent

I hope you and your families are keeping well. As the second half of the spring term comes to an end, I am writing to give you an update. Please take the time to read this with your child.

First and foremost, it has been great to see students back in the building this term, providing them with an opportunity to reconnect with their friends and peers, engaging in their learning and wider opportunities. Students have continued to show incredible resilience and staff have been particularly impressed with the progress they are making.

This period of time has allowed us to reflect on the day to day and the things that we take for granted. Perhaps it is the small things that count, being in the classroom, seeing tutors and teachers every day and simply the journey to school. The return to school has also seen the return of these simple, but important facets of school life. Not only this, but students have now been able to use all our facilities once again, including the 4G pitch for their PE lessons and after school clubs and the new food technology and textiles rooms that were completed before Christmas.

In this day and age of remote and online access we have been able to continue to operate many of our parent facing events. Feedback from these has been overwhelmingly positive and we will continue to operate these for the foreseeable future. In fact, many parents have commented that the virtual events have enabled them to attend and participate in a way they previously were not able to.

As and when national restrictions are further relaxed, we are hopeful that we will be able to provide students with experiences beyond the school grounds. These are experiences we have always offered in the past, and continue to place great value in. Red Nose Day provided the first opportunity for students to participate in events outside of their taught lessons. They enjoyed a fun whole school quiz at tutor time and the Inter-House competition around the theme of the day 'Funny being Power.' Thank you for your support with our fundraising efforts at this time. In addition, the school's Duke of Edinburgh award continues to run with a number of students having completed exhibitions before the last lockdown. We wish those students about to embark on their bronze and silver exhibitions in the next few weeks all the very best.

Uniform

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to maintain our high standards with regards to school uniform. The vast majority of students are smart every day and we continue to expect students to arrive and leave the site in their full school uniform, and also wear blazers moving between all lessons. When the weather is especially warm, we will make a decision as to whether it is a 'non blazer day' and communicate this to staff and students on the morning in period one. Expectations regarding face coverings remain as detailed in earlier correspondence, until we receive further guidance from the DfE.

May I also draw your attention to our Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) uniform swap shop where parents can swap, donate and sell items of uniform. This enables us to help reduce waste, support parents and raise funds for the PTFA. For more information see the latest PTFA newsletter or contact Lucy on 07989039990.



Inter-House events

We still have several Inter-House competitions running up to and over the Easter break. All activities and details can be found on Satchel:One as flexible tasks. The Design Technology upcycling competition is being extended over the Easter break. The challenge is to upcycle something and give it a new lease of life. This can be anything small to bigger restoration projects. The winner of this competition which will be judged by Max McMurdo, TV personality, will receive a signed copy of Max's Upcycling Book. There will be more competitions launched next term which will be promoted at tutor time. Do encourage your child to take part in these events and earn points for their House towards winning The Carlton Cup.

Opportunities Programme

We place huge importance on extra-curricular and personal development within the ethos of our academy and currently offer over 40 different and wide ranging extra-curricular opportunities for our students. You will find our Opportunities brochure, detailing sessions running in their year group bubbles, on the school website here: [Opportunities Programme \(theacademycarlton.org.uk\)](http://theacademycarlton.org.uk)

Wider opportunities have an invaluable contribution to students' wider experiences, personal development and cultural capital. Please continue to encourage your child to take up this fantastic offer. Students who attend these activities receive additional Achievement Points, which are part of our rewards policy and have many opportunities to complete elements of their Pledges through their participation in activities.

Year 9 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 4 May 2021 4pm-7pm

Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place virtually this year using a product called School Cloud. Attendance at Parents' Evening is integral to best support your child in their learning journey and progress whilst at school. Information and instructions in relation to the use of School Cloud and the bookings process are available on our website here: [School Cloud \(theacademycarlton.org.uk\)](http://theacademycarlton.org.uk). You will also find 'how to' guides detailing how to log in and the use of video function. All appointments for the evening will be booked through the School Cloud product. This booking system will open to parents on Tuesday 20 April at 7pm and close on Tuesday 4 May at 4pm.

Homework

Next half term's homework booklets for students in Years 7-10 are available to access through Student SharePoint and the school website. These should be used to support remote learning, as memory and retrieval aids or as directed by subject teachers. In recognition of the students' hard work and efforts during this half term, we have taken the decision not to set homework for the majority of students over the holiday period.

For those students in examination years, homework will be set as directed by staff in preparation for examined assessments to build their portfolios of evidence. It is necessary that students continue to revise and prepare for these assessments as they would for external exams. Further information related to exam groups can be found [here](#).

Testing at home throughout the Easter break

The DfE have confirmed the requirement of continuing to test at home throughout the Easter holidays, and into the summer term. This means:

- Test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to do so)
- Report results to NHS Test and Trace [here](#) and to the [here](#) as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- Continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holiday
- Test before returning to school for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to identify and isolate any positive cases.

It is vital that you do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 or are in a contact of anyone who has tested positive and seek medical advice. Over the Easter holiday period, please report any cases of students testing positive to s.wall@theacademycarlton.org

Free school meals and vouchers

Students in all years who are in receipt of free school meals have been issued with Tesco vouchers to cover the holiday period.

Communication

Please keep up to date with our school website for dates and information about forthcoming events. If you have any questions or queries, please contact us at the school via phone or email at office@theacademycarlton.org

School will close for the Easter break on Thursday 1 April at the usual time and will resume on Monday 19 April. I wish you a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Egwuma', written in a cursive style.

Ms Egwuma
Head of School