



Smithdon High School
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Re: AGi/LT

26 March 2021

Dear parents

As I write this letter part of me can't believe that it is already the end of March 2021 and the Easter holiday is now upon us. As well as being a short half-term, it has been an incredibly varied and busy one: starting while still in lockdown and closure to all but bubbles; moving into on-site lateral-flow testing and our staggered return; then moving into home testing and an element of 'normal' routines returning to daily life.

As we close the term, this last week has been no quieter - honouring the national one minute's silence on Tuesday to commemorate all those who have lost their lives since lockdown began one whole year ago and celebrating the magnificent achievements of our students this term with our end-of-term celebration assemblies, certificates and awards. Well done to everyone who received an award!

On the whole, the students have coped very well with the continued challenges that have been thrown at them by the ongoing pandemic and we are so proud of how they have returned to the one-way systems, regular sanitising and the extra demands of wearing a mask all day with little impact.

Please continue to carry out the home-testing with the LFT kits twice per week during the Easter holidays and report them on the NHS Track and Trace website, and our school log (links to both of which can be found on the Covid page on the website). **Please note that if your child receives a positive test result between the end of term (26 March) and Wednesday 31 March it is vital that you email us on head@smithdonhigh.org.uk** with the best number to contact you, so that we can put our Contact Tracing process in place immediately. (Any positive tests in April before we return to school, can simply be recorded by emailing or calling the attendance office, as in term time).

While we are, of course, looking forward to a good break, I can't deny that we are getting excited about the prospect of what is to come in the summer term, not least the potential success of our Year 11 students as they come to the end of their GCSE courses and make that last push of effort towards achieving the best possible grades in all their subjects. We are also focussing on a sunnier outlook - both with the weather and also the potential opportunities open to us if the Government 'Road-Map' out of lockdown continues to progress at the present rate. Provisional plans abound towards summer term sporting events, musical performances, creative arts opportunities - and a few special surprises, all being well!

In the meantime, I hope you all have a lovely break and some quality downtime without remote learning! We look forward to seeing all the students back, in full uniform, on Monday 12 April 2021.

Wishing you a Happy Easter!

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Gibbins
Head of School

