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Kelmscott School

"Putting Learning First"

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Update

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I am pleased to report that my family and I are feeling much better and hope to be back to full strength in the next few days. Thank you for your kind wishes this past week.

I would like to begin this letter by saying well done to our school community – seven weeks of uninterrupted education for most of us. New timings to get used to, changes to the lengths of lessons, entrances, exits, break/lunch time arrangements, wet weather arrangements, the use of masks – the list goes on. Students (and families) have adjusted and coped exceptionally well. No moans and groans, just community members getting on with making the best of a challenging situation – impressive stuff from you all. I am extremely grateful for your continued support.

Given everything that is going on, attendance has been very good all half term and is above both the Borough and National average at just under 92%. Punctuality figures have also been very good with much fewer students arriving late for school up to this point in the school year.

I have also been very impressed with the behaviour so far for this academic year too. In the second year of managing our behaviour through the use of our reward and consequences ladders, students continue to respond well to clear boundaries that are in place and a consistent way of managing behaviour across the school. Staff have given out nearly 35,000 reward points this half term and just over 5,000 consequence points. We always try to give out five times as many reward points for every consequence point. For the totals I have just outlined, the ratio is 6.5:1 which is impressive and supports the positive ethos that we value at school. The average for reward points per student is 40 and for consequence points it is 8. I thought you might find it an interesting discussion point to compare your child's numbers to the averages; their totals can be found in the My Student section of the MyEd app.

Congratulations to the following students for finishing top of the pile in terms of reward points accrued:

- Eric in Year 8 - 95 reward points
- Adam in Year 8 - 88 reward points
- Faizan in Year 8 - 87 reward points
- Onur in Year 11 - 86 reward points
- Pawel in Year 10 - 81 reward points

I will do some analysis of the data over half term as to the gender split for our rewards/consequences points too. Currently we have five boys recording the most rewards points on this occasion.

We have begun to look at the events scheduled for next half term such as The Evening of Excellence to celebrate the success of last year's Year 11 students, Illuminations Evening where we showcase the art work of last year's Year 11 students, as well as Parents' Evening for the current Year 11 students. It is hard to know what we will face in terms of restrictions in a few weeks' time so we are planning for all eventualities. I still feel very unhappy about the experience last year's Year 11 students had through no fault of their own; hopefully we can make it up to them at some point. Clearly it will be very important for us to be able to still offer Parents' Evenings this year, ideally in person but alternatively, virtually. We will work hard to make sure we can provide something worthwhile for families.

We have been fortunate this half term with just two really wet days for us to manage students inside the building. Students have coped very well on those two days being cooped up in the building but it is less than ideal. We are putting together some games boxes for each classroom for such days with playing cards, games of chess, connect four and the like. If families have any such games that are no longer being used at home, we would very much welcome them to use in our wet weather boxes.

We do not know what next half term will bring regarding COVID restrictions placed upon us. We are still in 'take each day as it comes' territory but I am confident we will still continue to pull together as a community to do right by our students, and each other. I hope you manage to spend some quality time with one another over this half term holiday and ensure that you are rested and recuperated to face any obstacles that may arise in the next half term.

We know it can be a challenging time for families financially and I would like to remind you of the Kelmscott Food Bank. A discreet delivery of some food and provisions can be organised for your family or a community member. Please get in contact at foodbank@kelmscott.waltham.sch.uk if we can be of assistance.

We are using our training days today and the morning of Monday, 2nd November to develop staff skills in delivering work through Google Classroom. All homework after half term will be set on Google Classroom as we engage fully with this exciting way of working. Students should have signed up to each of the Google Classrooms that their subject teachers have set up - a task for half term if students have not managed to do this already. A paper based version of the work will of course be provided for those who do not have a computer at home or those without internet access.

A reminder of our staggered start times for Monday, 2nd November:

- Year 7 10:40 hrs
- Year 8 10:45 hrs
- Year 9 10:45 hrs
- Year 10 10:50 hrs
- Year 11 10:55 hrs
- Year 12 10:55 hrs

Yours sincerely



Mr Sam Jones
Headteacher