



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

BUCKINGHAM ROAD
WINSLOW
MK18 3GH
(01296) 711853

WEB: WWW.SIRTHOMASFREMANTLE.ORG

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Headteacher's Half Term Update

I hope that this letter finds you all well.

I cannot tell you how delighted we are that we have managed to have a relatively "normal" first half term. I think everyone was rightly apprehensive about returning and we hope that being at school has given the students something familiar to be able to punctuate the weeks. The first half term certainly hasn't been easy and, as winter truly sets in, we need to ensure that we do not become complacent and undo the excellent work we have achieved so far. The whole school community has really pulled together and, once again, demonstrated what can be achieved when we are all working together.

I am also thankful that we have managed to get to 23rd October and have had no year group or whole school disruption through full or partial closures. I am not naïve enough to think we will not be affected at some point, but to have been able to return with the momentum we have is pleasing. Please continue to do what you can to support good hand and respiratory hygiene. It is clearly working. We are extremely grateful for all the support you have given the school over this particularly challenging time; I fully appreciate that it has not been easy, but I feel that everyone has made a significant contribution in keeping the school as safe and secure as possible. For the latest information regarding COVID-19 please use the NHS website. Here you can find out about symptoms, isolation and preventative measures. Please take some time to remind yourself of guidance; there is so much to keep track of. If your child or another family member tests positive over the half term holiday, can you please inform school reception via email, as the telephones will not be manned.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Class teachers have been busy delivering the curriculum and identifying gaps in students' knowledge and skills. We have a very clear picture of student needs and are developing strategies to ensure that missed learning is reduced. This is urgent for some year groups more than others: those in Year 11,12 &13 need to be supplementing their work at school with additional work at home and taking steps that demonstrate a more mature approach to independent learning. Within other year groups, there are some basics that can be done at home, such as encouraging your child to read; encouraging your child to explain a concept or idea that they have learnt at school or to review their learning daily. These will all help your children build on the work they do in school. If you would like more advice regarding the support you can offer your child, please speak to their form tutor in the first instance.



Ordinarily in October, we would have had a school full of potential students for September 2021. This year, like most things, we had to modify our approach to this event and deliver a virtual open evening. Despite the challenges that all schools have faced, we are delighted with the number of prospective families showing an interest in our school. Notwithstanding the fact that I spend all week here, it is still fascinating to see the school through the camera lens. The presentation of the school and its environment were absolutely first class and demonstrated the warm and caring school we have.

Just a couple of reminders over the half term: please do not let your child dye their hair any unnatural colours. We have been understanding of those who did over lockdown and are gradually returning to more acceptable colours. However, there should be no further instances of dyed hair during the school holidays. I would also not recommend having multiple piercings during the school holidays. Again these are not part of the school uniform and students will be requested to remove them.

Half term is also a good opportunity to top up the equipment needed for school. Please remember that there is an extended equipment list to help support us with our COVID measures in school. A reminder of what is required can be seen below. We would really appreciate it if student stocks of hand sanitiser could be replenished too. We do have this in school, but students having their own supplies means they can regularly apply throughout the day.

Equipment

- Pencil Case
- Pens (x 2 minimum)
- Pencils (x 2 minimum)
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil Sharpener
- Highlighters
- Calculator- **Speak with your Maths teacher about which one**
- Reading Book
- HW Planner
- English Dictionary
- MFL Language Dictionary-
- Scissors
- Glue Stick
- Small Stapler
- Colouring Pencils/Pens
- Protractor
- Compass
- Hand Sanitiser
- Tissues
- PE Kit- including appropriate footwear.



HAVE PRIDE IN YOUR LEARNING



Finally, our brand new school magazine will have been sent out and I am sure you will agree that the students should be immensely proud of their efforts. The work of Mrs Stone and her team of journalists has been exemplary and I am looking forward to seeing the magazine grow and become a regular feature of the school.

Yours faithfully,

Neale Pledger
Headteacher

