



Principals' Letter – Autumn Term 2020 Week Ending 11th September 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

At the start of an unusual year we have an unusual Principals' Newsletter – a short one! We want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your partnership in getting our young people back in to school. There is no doubt that there have been some significant changes and those changes are taking a bit of getting used to. However, the vast majority of our young people have managed brilliantly and have shown a real understanding of what is happening and what we need them to do. There are, of course, a handful of exceptions and we do not apologise for being very strict with enforcing our expectations; our young people need to do as they are asked to do, when they are asked to do it or we simply won't be able to operate safely. To this point of the term we have not been issuing after school detentions so we can all get settled back in to school but they will begin again next week; although we really hope to not need to use them as we are expecting our young people to work with us.

We are also looking at getting our extra-curricular programme started over the next couple of weeks as both staff and students are missing them.

As we are sure you have seen, the government has indicated a reintroduction of tighter rules due to the increased infection rate and we need to reflect on what this means for the school environment. We are urging young people to wear masks when unable to socially distance (lesson changeovers and break/lunch specifically) and are continuing to model their use. We are considering whether we need to make them compulsory. As we have seen the issue of masks is quite divisive and there are strongly held opinions on both sides of the argument. We will continue to review the guidance, both scientific and political, in order to make the best-informed decision. In the meantime, please encourage your young person to take responsibility for their own and others health and to wear a mask as appropriate.

Finally, thank you for working with us as we are sure we have a few challenges ahead – especially as we hit the normal cold and flu window. We will continue to keep you informed of any changes that we need to make due to the changing circumstances

Stay well.

Year 11 Information: Cambridge Regional College has an Open Day Online on 15th September at 6pm. By joining on line it will give you a chance to find out about their vocational full-time courses and apprenticeships, you will be able to view video tours of their state-of-the-art workshops and facilities and hear from their current students to find out what life is like as a student.

Information, Advice and Guidance specialists are on-hand to guide you through what courses best suit your child's future career aspirations, getting to university or finding the perfect job. Students can register today at www.camre.ac.uk/open-days

Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard
Co-Principals of Passmores Academy