

Ref: KHO/095/20-21

14 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We were very pleased this week that a number of our Year 10 and 11 pupils were able to take part in an online visit to an Oxford University College. It is also lovely to see that our House rounders competition is underway.

### **Face Coverings**

Government requirements around the wearing of face coverings in schools is changing as of Monday 17 May 2021. We have therefore updated our Health & Safety policy and procedures. As you are aware there are some continued Covid-19 outbreaks across the country and we are very keen that we continue to ensure that all pupils and staff at David Nieper Academy are as safe as possible and feel as safe as possible. Rather than removing all requirements for face coverings, we are taking a more gradual approach to health and safety in the academy. From Monday 17 May up until at least May half-term we are going to move to the situation where masks are not compulsory in classrooms but are still required in communal spaces such as corridors and when entering, leaving and moving around the building. Of course, if pupils still wish to wear face coverings in classrooms they may do so.

National restrictions still apply to travel to and from school and pupils are still required to wear face masks on school and public buses.

We have also been advised that the situation will be kept under review at a national and local level and the requirements to wear face coverings may be reimposed if the situation changes. We will continue to let everyone know in good time of any future changes.

### **Information for Year 11 and Year 13 students**

The Department for Education has issued an Ofqual 'Student guide to awarding Summer 2021'. We would encourage all Year 11, 12 & 13 students to read this guide, which is available on our website or by clicking on this link [DfE Student Guide](#)

### **Parents' Evening Survey**

As our Parents' Evenings have taken place online throughout this academic year, it would be really useful for us to gather feedback from you. How do you think these evenings have gone? What could we do to improve the experience? With this in mind we would be grateful if you could complete a brief survey by clicking on the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Tt6tzP27my>

Thank you for your support with this survey.

### **Year 7, 8 & 9 Assessments Week**

Unfortunately, we weren't able to run assessment week last year due to Covid-19 but hope to be able to run our annual assessment fortnight for all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 this year. This will involve pupils sitting short tests in most subjects in classrooms or computer rooms in the fortnight between 21 June and 1 July. For many of these they might involve pupils completing a multiple-choice quiz on SMHW in their normal lesson. These aren't supposed to be stressful or make pupils feel pressurised but are a useful way of gauging the learning that has taken place this academic year. Pupils will be given booklets next week that detail what they will be assessed on in each subject, as well as how to prepare for these assessments for each subject. Staff will then tell pupils when their assessments are taking place so they can create a timetable. We will try to keep the number of tests pupils sit in a day to a sensible number so they are in a good percentage of normal lessons too.

## Year 10 Mock Exams

As Year 10 enter the final year of their studies we have scheduled mock examinations in most subjects in the 9 days between 21 June and 1 July. All pupils will have no more than 2 exams per day and pupils have been given both a revision list for each subject as well as an exam timetable. This is important for a number of reasons, firstly so teachers can see how students perform in exam conditions and also to identify any gaps in knowledge or misconceptions. For pupils this is a great opportunity for them to start revising and work out how to best revise. By sitting mocks ahead of the real exams this should help prepare students for exams in 12 months-time.

## Homework Support

Homework support will resume next week. It will run from 3.35pm until 4.30pm Monday to Thursday in C01. Pupils are asked to collect a ticket from the Base if they would like to attend.

- Year 7 - Monday
- Year 8 - Tuesday
- Year 9 - Wednesday
- Year 10 - Thursday

## Duke of Edinburgh

This week we have been able to return to in-person Duke of Edinburgh meetings for Year 9. These sessions are to prepare pupils for their outdoor expeditions. This week we looked at how to pack their bags and what they need to bring on their expedition. Next Wednesday we to be doing some orienteering and team building outside! If any Year 9's would like to join us please see Miss Acey or Miss Brown before next Wednesday for more details.

## Testing

All pupils in school have now received at-home testing kits, together with a step-by-step guide for self-testing. The following video about home testing has also been shown to our pupils <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo>

- The guidance states that pupils should use the test twice each week. We would like pupils to test on a Sunday and on a Wednesday
- If pupils get a positive result, as well as registering the result with the test and trace website, please telephone school immediately or email [info@davidnieper.academy](mailto:info@davidnieper.academy) to let us know
- If pupils get a positive result, they and the rest of your household must begin to self-isolate.
  - You must also book a confirmatory PCR test. This can be through a test centre or a postal test.
  - If the result of this is positive, you must continue to self-isolate in-line with national guidance. If the result of this is negative, please contact school as pupils will then be able to return.

Pupils must not attend school if they are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

## Free School Meal Vouchers

If your child is eligible for free school meals and is sent home to self-isolate we can offer two options to parents/carers:

- **10 days self-isolation** – If your child either tests positive, or is sent home as a close contact of someone who has tested positive, and has to self-isolate for 10 days we can provide a 2-week food box (collection only).
- If after taking a home test your child tests positive and you are waiting for the results of a PCR test, we can offer a daily Grab and Go bag that can be ordered before 10.30am and collected after 12 noon. If the PCR test is also positive, we can then offer the 2-week food box for the 10-day self-isolation period.

**Diary Dates**

Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June inclusive – Half-term holiday

Monday 7 June – INSET day – school closed to pupils

Monday 8 June – pupils return

Monday 21 June to Thursday 1 July – Year 10 Mock Exams

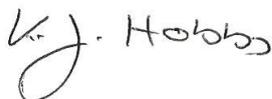
Monday 21 June to Thursday 1 July – Years 7, 8 & 9 assessments

Friday 2 July – INSET day – school closed to pupils

We continue to offer help and support to all of our pupils, families, staff and community. If you do need to get in touch with us please email [info@davidnieper.academy](mailto:info@davidnieper.academy) and someone will be in touch.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr K Hobbs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'D'.

Dr K Hobbs  
Headteacher