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THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

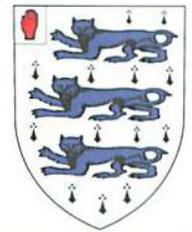
incorporating

ADAMS COLLEGE SIXTH FORM CENTRE

ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher: Gavin Sterry BSc (Hons) MA



23rd October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As half term fast approaches, it is good to take stock of things and reflect on the last half term. Whilst it continues to be a very challenging period, we have tried to maintain an element of normality around school life while maintaining the safety of our school community. Yesterday, we had to manage our first confirmed positive case of Covid-19, which I think we should be proud of. I believe this is due to our control measures and how well the students and staff are adhering to the guidelines. I would say that all staff I speak to are happy to be back and working in a face to face environment with our young people.

Post-half term break

You may be aware that some schools are revising their year group zones and bubbles and returning to their normal classrooms. I do not feel at present, in relation to Covid, I can support these changes at Thomas Adams and we must consider our own site and buildings. I am fully aware that this does fall heavily on staff. Teaching five lessons per day, moving continually around a very large site is draining both mentally and physically. I am sure you would want to join me in thanking the staff for their total commitment to ensuring that we can continue to provide a full curriculum in a safe environment. Our intentions are to begin hosting extra-curricular activities within year group bubbles. The PE department are running a range of clubs and students should speak to their PE teachers.

Some staff will also be starting to deliver Year 11 catch up sessions in preparation for mocks and future assessments. We will endeavour to ensure there is something for each year group moving forward.

Year 11 and Year 13 assessments

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Year 11 and Year 13 for the way in which they have approached their assessments. Their conduct and attitude have been excellent and the experience will have provided a much needed reminder of the process of written assessments. The assessments will provide staff with a valuable insight into their understanding post lockdown.

It is inevitable that, given the disruption students have faced, any assessment at this time will not be a true reflection of their ability. Please be assured that we are using the results as a diagnostic tool to gauge where students currently are in their learning and understanding so that teaching can be targeted to address gaps in skills and knowledge. Departments will be starting to provide after school intervention sessions. I will write and communicate the programme for these after half term.

After half term, Year 11 will have their mock exams starting on 16th November. Again, may I ask that you encourage your son/daughter to prepare for these exams. As with last year's exam groups, these grades may become even more important in determining Centre Assessed Grades if exams are unable to take place.





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Year 12 have interim tests starting on 30th November. These are important assessments for us to gain insight into the foundations of understanding that have been gathered over the first part of the courses.

Finally, the government have announced that GCSE and A Level exams will take place with a delayed start date of 7th June 2021. Exams will run into the start of July and the results days will be for A' Level – 24th August 2021 and for GCSE – 27th August 2021. We will communicate more details once we receive them, but please ensure that there are no holidays booked during the exam period.

School website

If you have not already had a chance to look at our new virtual videos of the school, sixth form and boarding house, please do have a look.

Uniform

As always, I will insist that students wear our uniform with pride, looking smart and representing themselves and the school in the community.

The one area I must outline once more is that on days where students have PE they should come to school in their PE kit. If they require warm clothing on their upper body, they can wear a navy, white, black or royal blue skin; they can wear their blazer, Thomas Adams fleece or a coat. They cannot wear branded hoodies or track suit tops. For their lower body, they can wear Thomas Adams tracksuit bottoms, or plain (small logo) navy or black tracksuit bottoms.

Face mask reminder

As we continue to require everyone in our community to wear face masks in communal areas and corridors, may I please ask that students are provided with face masks. So far, we have spent over £150 on disposable masks which I am sure you appreciate is an ongoing cost we have not budgeted for.

Once again, may I thank you for your continued trust and support and I wish you and your families a safe and restful half term break.

Kind regards

Mark Cooper
Headteacher

