

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you on our final week of the Lent term to say thank you for your support in recent weeks. I have been very impressed by the behaviour and application of our pupils and students throughout the school and I have also been very pleased with the uptake of the Lateral Flow Self-Testing process.

I am also writing to you to share some important information and invite you to watch a video I recorded this week which summarises the points below. Please [click here](#) to watch the video.

Testing

I am pleased to report that we have had approximately 2000 tests taken in school since the reopening in March. All pupils, students and staff have now moved to the home testing phase, with all pupils/students who have taken part in the testing process in school required to complete tests on each Monday and Thursday during the Easter break and all staff on Tuesdays and Fridays. The only exception to this is ahead of the school reopening on Wednesday 14th April. Where possible, please can the test due to be taken on Monday the 12th April be taken on Tuesday 13th April (ideally in the evening) so that we know that everyone returning to school on Wednesday 14th April has tested negative. We have provided enough testing kits to cover the Easter break so please do ensure you follow the schedule that has been set. If at any time you require more tests then please do contact me so that arrangements can be put into place.

GCSE and A level grades

I have been made aware through my colleagues that we have started to receive emails regarding pupil and student grades in Year 11 and Year 13.

I do understand the pressure that is being felt by pupils, students and their families ahead of the publication of GCSE and A level grades, however it is incredibly important that we do not receive communication from pupils, students, parents or carers regarding these grades. This contact can be deemed by OFQUAL as putting pressure on school staff and can therefore be classed as a form of cheating. The grades that will be published on A level and GCSE results days are based on work being completed currently by pupils and students and work that has been previously completed across the two or three-year study period. I can assure you that these grades will be a fair reflection of your child's ability in that subject so please do not contact us to try to influence these grades.

Year 11 – conditional offers

All Year 11 pupils who have applied to our Sixth Form have been sent conditional offer forms via their Form Tutors. Please can we ask these are returned as soon as possible as this is the only way we can know which pupils are very likely to stay with us next year and therefore we can begin to plan and timetable for the 2021/2022 academic year. If you require another copy of the form, please email sixth@QEGSBlackburn.com.

Easter break

The Lent term ends this Friday ahead of the Easter break, before we return to school for Trinity term on Wednesday 14th April 2021. During this period, some of the government's lockdown measures are changing. However, it is vitally important we each continue to play our part and ensure that we continue to maintain social distancing and follow the guidelines in place. Blackburn with Darwen has been one of the areas with the highest rate of COVID-19 cases over the last year, however it is

fantastic to see the case numbers decrease on a daily basis in recent weeks. It is important that this continues so we can all return to our more normal lives in the coming months.

Therefore, please can I ask you to remind your child/ren the importance of following these measures and the role they play in reducing the rate of infection in the area. I have personally had to intervene in recent days when I have seen pupils from our school at the end of the school day meeting with pupils from other schools and hugging or shaking hands. This cannot happen and I ask for your support in relaying this message to your child/ren.

I wish you a restful Easter break and I look forward to welcoming our pupils and students back for the final term of the 2020/2021 academic year.

Best wishes,

Mrs CY Gammon