

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been wonderful to have our students back in school where they belong. I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting classrooms and seeing students engaged in their learning. It has been particularly lovely to see them taking part in practical lessons in subjects such as science, design technology and PE. I think we have all found the week tiring but have overlooked this as we've enjoyed interacting with each other and bringing our school community back to life.

### **Mass testing**

I would like to thank the students who have taken part in the mass testing programme for their sensible and mature approach to the process. We have tested nearly 600 students twice and had no positive results, which is pleasing. Our final day of testing is on Monday and then the students involved in the programme will be given home testing kits to continue the twice weekly testing from home. Further details of how to do this and how to report their results to the school will be sent separately to those involved. A copy of the privacy statement in relation to home testing is attached to this update.

### **COVID-19 update**

This week we have been notified that following a PCR test, a student in Year 7 has tested positive for COVID-19. We have been in contact with the students that we have identified as close contacts and asked them to self-isolate.

As before you did before Christmas, if your child or a member of their household develops COVID-19 symptoms the whole household must self-isolate until the member of the household with symptoms receives a negative PCR test. Please notify the school if this is the case and please don't send your child in. Can you also let the school know about any positive test results for your child or any member of their household so we can advise about return to school following their isolation.

### **Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week**

Regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread. Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online [www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests)
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing visit [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Red Nose Day**

This year we will be fundraising for Red Nose Day via a topical form group quiz. Tutors will be encouraging students to drop their spare change into an envelope during the week. Maybe you have some coins down the side of the sofa that could be sent in? We are aware that this has been a really difficult time for some families, so there is no expectation that every student contributes, and every student will be able to take part in the quiz. You are invited to support us in our fund-raising efforts, either by sending loose change in or by donating via a special link on ParentPay – the link will go live on Monday morning. Thank you in advance for any donations you are able to make.

### **FocusOnYourFuture**

Students in KS3 have been working hard on completing their job adverts for the 'Step Into the NHS' competition. Please talk to your child about the role that they explored out of the 350 available. KS3 students have also been working as wildlife area designers for our National Science Week competition and all students have been invited to act as historical researchers for our International Women's Day competition in history. We will be announcing the winners of these competitions soon.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with our growing #FOYF programme. We are beginning to plan for the summer term and will be in contact with many volunteers to enrich the activities we have on offer. If you would like to volunteer to support us, please email Sam Gill [samantha.gill@elawnswood.co.uk](mailto:samantha.gill@elawnswood.co.uk).

We are very lucky to have 5 Universities and 1 University Centre within 6km of our location. In pre-COVID times, we regularly took students on aspirational visits in many subjects. As things return to normal, we are starting to work with universities again and we are currently developing an exciting opportunity within creative arts, for Y9 and KS5, with Leeds Arts University.

### **Commendation celebration**

2665 commendations were awarded across the school this week which just shows what a fabulous return to school our students have made. The students gaining the most commendations in their year groups are:

Year 7	Joshua Starbuck
Year 8	Luna-Maria Munoz-Small
Year 9	Layla Harrison
Year 10	Skara-Brae Butterfield
Year 11	Jack Clift

Congratulations to you all on a fantastic first week back to school.

### **Key Dates:**

In the next few weeks, you may want to be aware of the following:

Friday 2 April

Easter break. School will be closed to all students.

Monday 19 April

School re-opens.

Just a reminder that the students will learn remotely on Monday 15 March as we complete our final day of mass testing. I look forward to seeing all the students back in school again on Tuesday 16 March at their usual times.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JBell', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Bell  
Headteacher