



Thriftwood

School and College

website: www.thriftwoodschool.com

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see all the students coming back to College and I hope that we are gradually combating the real concerns and anxiety I know most of you felt when sending your child back at the start of September. Much has happened since then and the students have been exceptional in learning new routines and keeping 'COVID safe'.

I thought it would be useful to give you an update on what is happening in terms of the Curriculum, EHCP Reviews and COVID-19 approaches at college.

The Curriculum

At the beginning of term, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 were taught English and Maths in their tutor groups. The Key Stage 4 classes were already vertically grouped in abilities, which made it easier to target student levels. This continues to remain the same. However, in Key Stage 5 we have chosen to return to 'ability groups'. This does not affect the 'bubbles' but instead allows staff to target student needs more effectively.

As of September 2020, 'Relationships and Sex Education' became compulsory for secondary schools. This is reflected in our PSHCE Policy, which is available on the Thriftwood website. www.thriftwoodschool.com

At Thriftwood College, we are committed to providing remote learning resources for those students self-isolating or in quarantine. We are also ready to respond to a higher demand for remote learning as a result of any greater national emergency measures. Therefore, we kindly ask that you respond to the letter that was sent to you regarding access to Information Technology, as it will assist in our approach to the remote offer.

EHCP Annual Reviews

We are aiming to see you virtually as part of the EHCP Annual Review process on the following dates.

14th October 2020 (4:00-7:00PM)
9th November 2020 (All day)
25th November 2020 (4:00-7:00PM)

Many of the Key Stage 5 will begin their steps towards preparing themselves for life after Thriftwood and we recognise how important it is to support them. The majority of our leavers will come from Year 13 and 14 and we look forward to all parents and carers taking a vital role in this process.

COVID-19

Please make sure students do not bring unnecessary items into college as they do not have access to lockers and it creates another hygiene concern. We hope that all students understand how important it is to regularly change into clean clothes.

The Local Authority has advised that the following should be adhered to: -

All those with COVID symptoms must self-isolate and seek a test.
The symptoms are: -

- **A high temperature 37.8.** You must still isolate even if the temperature returns to normal later on.
- **A new, continuous cough.** This includes coughing consistently for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- **A loss or change to sense of smell or taste.**

Finally, I would like to thank the students for showing remarkable fortitude in such difficult times. I also recognise that parents and carers have a lot to do with why students have done so well and would like to thank you for your continued support,

All good wishes

Jon Hutchings
Acting Head of College

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