



West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'

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Dear West Park Families

The start of a new half term is always a very exciting time. Staff and pupils return to school refreshed, ready for the opportunities ahead and there are always some key areas to focus on for all year groups. This half term feels particularly poignant as we continue to move through the pandemic and closer to normal West Park life.

Ukraine Appeal

We have all been shocked by the events that have taken place in the Ukraine over the last few days and the huge impact that this has had on innocent, civilian lives. One of our West Park family works for Motus Commercials who are organising aid packages to be taken to Poland to support the refugee crisis that is happening over there. Currently, there is a pause to this due to logistical issues but we will be in touch should further donations be accepted in the future.

Covid Update

As the 'Living with Covid' plan continues to impact across the country please be aware of the following:

- After reviewing the current situation and positive Covid cases, we will stop wearing masks in corridors and indoor communal areas from Monday 7th March.
- Staff and pupils who want to wear a mask will still be able to do so but this cannot be used to hide a facial piercing (this is not the most subtle of cunning plans enacted by certain individuals).
- We will no longer be asking staff and pupils to conduct lateral flow tests (LFTs) on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. No further test kits are being provided by the DFE for schools.
- There is no longer a requirement to do an LFT for 7 consecutive days if you have had contact with or live in a house with someone who reports a positive case of Covid.

- Pupils and staff who do test positive for Covid (and are likely to be symptomatic) should continue to self-isolate. They should conduct an LFT on the morning of day 5 and day 6. If both tests are negative they can return to West Park. This process continues until day 10, when self-isolation ends.
- We currently have a very small stock of LFTs which we can give to families who may need to test on the back of a positive case. LFTs are also available for a short time from local chemists and via the NHS website.
- We are keen to welcome back spectators for both indoor and outdoor sporting events. Our teams are excelling across a number of sports and any additions to the cheer squad are always appreciated. Be warned that the football pitches are exceptionally muddy at the moment, I found this out the hard way!
- When pupils are self-isolating this will now be coded as ill (I). This is a national change and something that is taking place across all schools.
- Aligned to this change there will come a point when we have to stop setting work for pupils who are at home. As you can imagine, this can have a huge impact on staff as they balance this against teaching 5 or even 6 lesson days. During this transition phase we will continue to set work through Firefly. We will review this system on Friday 18th March.
- We hope to re-commence our assembly programme shortly. We will also review this on Friday 18th March.
- We will be able to organise pupils in slightly bigger groups now. This will be relevant to a number of subject areas.

I look forward to spending less time writing to you about Covid and more time recognising and celebrating the accomplishments of our awesome pupils!

Year 9 Options Process

The Year 9 option process is now up and running. Options related information is available through our website and this is supplemented by some very useful videos which have been put together by subject staff. All Year 9 pupils have received a slip to explain their Key Stage 4 pathway and this should be utilised alongside the options form which will be released on Wednesday 9th March to make their final decisions. Prior to this, we have our Year 9 parents' evening which will take place on Tuesday 8th March via our online platform, Schoolcloud. This is a really exciting time for Year 9 as they begin to plan the next stage of their West Park journey into Year 10 and 11.

Year 11 Exams

It looks very likely that the Year 11 exams will go ahead. This is a crucial time for Year 11 as they make the most of their last few weeks in school. All of Year 11 will go through another round of assessments (assessment point 2) over the next few weeks. This forms part of the data set that is required for the national contingency plan that has been put in place in case anything impacts on the final exams this year. Please encourage your Year 11 child to work hard and to keep going. They are on the final straight now and every bit of revision could make the difference as they strive to get the best grades possible. There will be no lesson 6 on Tuesday 8th March as staff will be preparing for Year 9 parents' evening.

In exciting news, we are pushing forward with plans for the Year 11 Prom. We are carrying over a booking from the last two years and the prom will take place on Friday 15th July at Derbyshire County Cricket Club. I am very excited to see the plans that our Year 11 Prom Committee devise and look forward to having my suggested playlist rejected (again) in favour of something far more on trend (although 90's hits are back in fashion, so I live in hope!)

Adult Education

We are never too old to learn something new and we have been provided with the opportunity to link to our adult education service. Please review the links below and sign up for the relevant course:

<https://www.westpark.derby.sch.uk/documents/derby-adult-learning-service.pdf>

<https://www.westpark.derby.sch.uk/documents/maths-and-english-tasters.pdf>

We are all looking forward to some brighter days and renewed opportunities to celebrate being together as a school community. Conversations about West Fest, whole school sports day, the prom and The Queen's Jubilee celebrations are already taking place and I can't wait to see the school buzzing with activity.

Thanks for everything you have done to support us during the pandemic that has enabled us to get to this point. Let's hope that Spring will spring soon!

Kind Regards



Scott McGregor
Head