



Castle Donington College

Principal: Mrs Julie Sheppard

Vice Principal: Mr Nathan Barratt

Assistant Principal: Mr Ben Wilkinson

JS/LD/C21

12th March 2021

Dear Castle Donington College Community,

It has been a pleasure to welcome all the children back into the College this week and watch them settling back into face-to-face lessons.

As you know, we started testing Year 10 and Year 11 pupils last week, before we were allowed to resume teaching, to ensure that the maximum number of pupils were able to start back as soon as possible. By Wednesday all pupils were back in College.

Testing has continued in College each day and, by the end of the day today, we will have completed over 750 Lateral Flow tests, which help to keep the College safe. Congratulations to our team of volunteers for this outstanding achievement. So far, we have no positive tests, indicating very low levels of infection in our College community. Thanks to all the students who have participated so well in the programme and for the way they have conducted themselves in the test centre; they have been a credit to you and the College.

Our attendance this week has been fantastic, over 98% in all year groups. We thank you for your support in helping children return to College. It is our firm belief that even, and in some cases especially, for those students who have been struggling with their mental health in lockdown, that the College is the safest and healthiest place to be and will be the best environment for our pupils as they re-adjust to the unlocking of society which is planned over the coming weeks and months. Tutors, class teachers and support staff are assisting students in their transition back to College, and are alert to those who are finding it difficult. Please let us know if you think your child is struggling to re-integrate. We are on hand to help and support.

Pupils are also meeting our expectation of wearing face masks in lessons without complaint. We appreciate this is really difficult for them, but our pupils clearly understand why we are encouraging them to make this sacrifice and continue to impress us.

Next week sees the introduction of Home Testing and we plan to issue kits to Year 11 pupils on Monday, Year 10 pupils on Tuesday and Year 7, 8 and 9 Pupils on Thursday morning. All instructions come with the kit and pupils are now expert in self-administering the tests. We do ask though, that you report your result to the NHS and to College, a link will be on the website. Registering the result with us will help to reduce transmission in the College more quickly. We are waiting 24 hours, sometimes longer, to hear from the NHS of test results.

With only two weeks remaining of this half term we have a lot to fit in. As pupils slip gently into the routine of school life we know other pressures may take hold. It is lovely to see the start of spring bursting onto the landscape. Let's hope warmer and sunnier weather will follow soon. Thank you for your support over the last few months. Your kind words and messages of encouragement have helped enormously. It is a privilege to serve such a wonderful community.

Take care of each other.

Julie Sheppard
Principal

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