



Wales HIGH SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: MR. G. DI'IASIO

22 June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle'. Although written many centuries ago I believe these words from the Greek philosopher Plato are as important today as when they were first written.

In my letter this week I wanted to focus on how, through continued kindness, we can continue to support one another through these challenging times. I wanted to begin by thanking both our staff, Y10 and Y12, for the way in which they have approached the mentoring process that started last week, and for the consideration and kindness they have shown one another to help make this potentially difficult return to school so smooth. From the moment we were able to open the school to a wider number of staff and students; nothing could have pleased me more than to see an increased number of students starting to come through the gates. It really felt like the start of a return to where we all want to be; students back at Wales and thriving with fantastic staff and the peers they have had to wait a long time to see. I am confident that as a result of this, there will now be many more students continuing to be welcomed back as we move towards the end of the summer term.

Towards the end of last week I had the pleasure of writing to all KS3 families; starting to prepare for the youngest years of the school having their opportunity to come back on site. This letter was sent Friday morning and it included a very important survey that should be completed before 3pm tomorrow. If you haven't received this email, follow [this link](#) to the school website and complete the survey. On Wednesday 24 June, KS3 families will receive another email which will give you further details.

Each week we have continued to pull together a bulletin that supports remote learning. All of our bulletins are on the website should you ever want to look back and find something specific, please follow [this link](#) to take you straight to them all. This week's bulletin continues to answer the many questions we get each week and we have ***also added a fuller timetable of Teams online lessons*** as many parents and students felt this would help with organisation and ensuring these lessons are attended.

This week's bulletin also highlights a number of messages for Year 11 regarding a very important Sixth Form Induction Evening. Please check the dates and add them to your diary. There is also an inclusion of the school diary page as many of the traditional events that we look forward to in our summer term, are still going ahead and it would be great to have many of you involved.

Our Super Learning Day is happening this week and is also something that I am incredibly excited about. This day includes a focus on kindness as well as a range of health, social and wellbeing activities that I am certain will provide a wide variety of activities and learning opportunities for our students. We are lucky that we have a number of staff as well as specialist guests that have helped contribute towards this day.

Having received feedback from parents I am sure that both you and our students will welcome the opportunity of being able to study topics from different perspectives as well as there being a variety of choice at a time when we are craving change. Please look out for details of this special day in the bulletin.

As time goes on, I am acutely aware of the additional pressures and tension that can continue to build, due to frustration and a growing impatience to get through this pandemic with our families safe and well. I hope that our support, communications and advice such as that in our Super Learning Day will help our families and wider community during these challenging times that we all face.

To conclude I thought I would return to our theme of 'kindness' and to some lyrics from singer/songwriter Morrissey, one of my favourite, if occasionally controversial, artists and lead singer of the legendary 80's band 'The Smiths'. For those who may have spent their youth enjoying Morrissey then you will recognise his philosophy when he wrote: ***"It's so easy to laugh and so easy to hate; it takes guts to be gentle and kind"***. Although many of our students won't necessarily be a fan of this era; I certainly play The Smiths to my daughters and refer to it as 'their musical education.' The words still resonate as much today as when they were written and they provide a timely thought about the world that we live in today.

At a time when perhaps the world needs it most, let's be strong and determined to be gentle and kind!

Stay safe, stay strong.



Pepe D'Ilasio
Headteacher