

26 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher update

After the excitement of returning to school and the completion of our initial Asymptomatic Mass Testing Programme for COVID-19, the weeks are starting to feel much more like those we are familiar with at NSG. As always, the school community is showing its care for one another in observing the guidance on mask-wearing; taking their regular lateral flow tests; keeping spaces well-ventilated and making the most of the dry weather to get outside and take in the fresh air as much as we can.

This year it has felt particularly important to raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives. Following last week's fundraising for Comic Relief, I can now share with you that the school raised an impressive £1608 as part of this event! Thank you to all our students and staff that participated and contributed to this, and particularly to our Sixth Form leadership team for their support with the collection of donations.

It is wonderful to see our students firmly back in lessons now and teachers are identifying where students may need to revisit topics and continuing to provide enrichment activities also. As a staff community, we are confident that our students are in a strong position in their academic development and will continue to flourish; we expect they may even be better independent learners due to the self-discipline and resilience they have drawn on this year and we are looking at ways to maximise the Google Classroom resources that our staff have created to continue to further enhance our all-round provision.

The personal development of our students has been a particular focus in ensuring that they continue to move forward. Already, it is clear that simply being back with friends and working with others is having an immediate visible impact on all our year groups and over the next few weeks and months, we hope to keep increasing the valuable enrichment opportunities that our students have always enjoyed at NSG. We are pleased that Sport is happening again and that even more of our arts activities will be starting again soon too. If the roll out with the lifting of restrictions continues as planned, we also hope to be able to resume our theatre performances, in some way, in the not too distant future.

Awarding of Grades 2021

Year 11 and Year 13 received assemblies this week to ensure that they are kept as up to date as possible on the assessment arrangements for this year. Separate letters have been sent to both of these year groups with further information about future assessments. We are all very impressed with the way these year groups are navigating their way through this challenging year. We encourage all our students to please ensure they contact us on Examinations2021@nsg.northants.sch.uk if they have any additional questions about these assessments. We



remain committed to being as transparent as possible with the information we have. Upon our return, we will be delivering a series of bookable webinars for students, parents and carers also. More information about this will be shared with you via Edulink.

This has been a very different year for all young people across the country. When the Prime Minister announced the closure of schools for the first time a year ago, we could not have possibly imagined that we would now, still, be living with the restrictions of the pandemic and that the country and the world would have experienced such a tragic loss of life and of livelihood: we will never forget these moments. In our school community, students, teachers, parents and governors have been unanimous in their support of one another and the school, this has enabled us to navigate the polarities at each stage. We will continue to do this collectively in coming months.

Thank you for all your support and we look forward to welcoming our students back to NSG on **Monday 12 April 2021**. I wish you all a peaceful, refreshing and safe half-term.

Very best wishes,



Mrs Cristina Taboada-Naya
Headteacher

