

22nd April 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

It has been a delight to welcome students back this week for the summer term. The behaviour of students and their attitudes to learning this week has been impressive and sets the tone for what I am sure will be another fantastic term.

I hope families enjoyed a break during the Easter holidays after the busy spring term. Please click [here](#) to read last term's newsletter which includes details of a number of activities that took place during the spring term, including the latest news from our curriculum areas and year groups across the school.

### COVID-19

As I wrote in my update at the end of last term, the guidance for COVID-19 has changed. COVID-19 tests are no longer freely available and schools have been asked not to hand out any tests. Should students feel unwell and have a high temperature, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. Anyone under 18 with a positive COVID-19 test result will be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days.

### Sixth Form speaker programme

Sixth Form students heard from a major energy company figure on Thursday 21st April 2022. The guest speaker was Chris O'Shea, Group Chief Executive of Centrica Energy, which is the parent company of British Gas. Chris has recently been on BBC Radio 5 talking about energy price concerns, and has also been the main guest on Deborah Meaden's 'Big Green Money Show' podcast.

The talk took place live in the new E-block hall. Chris had a relaxed style, and emphasised that he was more interested in students' questions than talking about his own career. Chris talked about the future of fossil fuel exploration, developing battery storage for electricity from wind farms, heat pumps, and his concerns over mining resources for electric car batteries. Students asked questions on areas including fuel poverty, climate change, home heating systems, electric cars and apprenticeship opportunities at Centrica.

Chris was speaking as part of the Sixth Form's regular programme of guest speakers, which takes place fortnightly for Year 12.

### Road safety

I would like to remind parents/guardians again of the importance of road safety following an accident that took place outside school yesterday morning involving a car and a member of staff on a bicycle. Please speak to your child about the importance of crossing roads safely and remind them not to use their phones whilst crossing roads. Should your child require a lift to school, please do not stop cars in the middle of the road to let students out.

Students have heard this week from the company who will be undertaking significant work on West End Road in the coming weeks as part of HS2 work and I trust parents/guardians appreciate the importance of reiterating

these safety messages, particularly given the likely disruption when the works begin. The representative who attended the school could not give me precise dates for the disruption but I have written to ask for this information and I will update parents/guardians as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of the school community an enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies  
Headteacher