

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has only been a short while since my last newsletter but I wanted to take this opportunity at the end of a long term to thank you again for your ongoing support and to wish you a very happy Christmas.

It is also a chance for me to celebrate some recent events in school, share with you the arrangements for COVID-19 testing at the start of next term and give you some feedback from the recent parent survey.

### Arrangements for COVID-19 testing on return in January

We have been asked by the Department for Education to prepare to test students once on return in January. Testing continues to play a vital role in keeping COVID-19 out of schools and testing all students in school boosts testing participation. This is particularly important to help reduce transmission after a period of social mixing over the school holidays.

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 are invited to come in on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January at a specific time determined by their tutor group (see below). This is a Professional Development Day so students should use the rear entrance of the school to access the gym which is where the tests are being carried out. Students in Years 12 and 13 are given specified times determined by their tutor group (see below) on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. They will need to leave their lesson or supervised study period to complete the test.

*Insert timings of tests here*

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days are not required to carry out a Lateral Flow Test. If you have any queries about testing then please contact the school via [testresult@southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:testresult@southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk)

Finally, lateral flow testing kits were distributed to students via their tutors on Tuesday this week and we encourage students to continue twice weekly testing over the holiday period.

### Careers' Fayre



The annual careers fayre was revived allowing every single student the opportunity to explore options for their future with representatives present from universities, FE colleges, Sixth Form colleges, training providers for apprenticeships, uniformed services and employers. This was the first time we had held it in

the Sports Hall and it was a great success with many students completing the given challenge of collecting evidence of conversations with all the different institutions.

## Ogden Trust Lectures



Our partnership with the Ogden Trust meant we were able to invite Ruth Perkins of Science Made Simple to deliver a great presentation on 6 scientists who had fundamentally changed our understanding and approach – from volcanologists to radio-astronomers. As part of the Ogden Trust partnership we were joined by students from Arrowvale Academy and Bromsgrove School.

## D of E Presentations



At our D of E Presentation Evening we were joined by Alex Staniforth who presented 262 awards. Alex spoke to the young people about The 'Advantages of Adversity' and described how his two attempts to climb Everest as a teenager were both thwarted by natural disasters (a massive ice fall and an earthquake that destroyed Base Camp). He talked about his struggles with mental health and how young people can be resilient through setting themselves challenges.

Congratulations to all of our students which included:

- 104 students in the current Year 11 who have completed their Bronze awards.
- 59 students in the current Year 12 who have completed their Silver awards and 67 who have completed their Bronze.

- 32 students in the current Year 13 who were awarded their Silvers which were deferred after their Year 11 Silver expeditions were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, but completed in the summer of 2021 through our local expeditions.

## Parent Survey

Thank you to the 404 parents and carers that completed Ofsted parent survey earlier this term. There were 5 response options for each question: strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree and don't know. When we analysed the combined percentages for strongly agree/agree we found that your responses were above the national average except for question 5: 'The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year'. We have tried to use the virtual 'Launch Evenings' for each year group at the start of this term to support this aspect but your feedback appears to show we need to do more work in this area.

Subject leaders are currently working on something which we will be able to share with you via the school's website which will give an overview of the 'learning journey' for their subjects. Hopefully this will give you more insight into the curriculum and help you to support your child's learning.

## Last day of term

Our last day of term is **Friday 17th December** which will be a non-uniform day. Students are encouraged to wear Christmas jumpers or a festive outfit and bring in a £1 donation for charity. There will be normal lessons during periods 1, 2 and 3, with students being able to leave at the start of the first lunch sitting which is 12:40pm. The bus companies are aware of the change in timings.

Some other schools in Bromsgrove will be finishing later in the afternoon and we have asked our students not to visit other schools on that day. It might seem like a nice idea for students to visit their old school at this time of year but it is not appropriate with the current COVID-19 situation.

## Safeguarding

Should you have a safeguarding concern, please use the following contacts:

**Designated Safeguarding Lead at South Bromsgrove High School: Kristy Pascoe, e-mail:**

[pa@southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:pa@southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk)

**Worcestershire Children First:** <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childrensocialcare>

**Refer to Children's Social Care:** <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childrenreferral>

**The Family Front Door: 01905 822666** - to report a concern

**NSPCC: 0808 800 5000** [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

**Here2Help Worcestershire:** <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

## Upcoming events

- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Professional Development Day – school closed to students but students in Years 9, 10 and 11 attend for their COVID-19 test only
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – all students return
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January – D of E Expedition Information Evenings
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 reports issued
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Key Stage 4 Pathways Evening for Year 9 students and parents
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Year 9 Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February – School play performances

Those are the key events which take us up to February half term.

Best wishes and take care,



Chris Smith  
Headteacher