Falconer School

Achieving the extraordinary together

Headteacher's Update Friday 1 April

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the Spring Term I would like to again thank you all for your support.

We held a Revision Techniques Evening on Wednesday 30 March for Year 11 students, parents and carers. The evening focused on general revision strategies in the build up to exams, top tips from the core subjects of English, maths and science and how to manage stress and anxiety. The evening was very well received, with students taking home a gift of revision tools including post it notes, highlighters, revision cards and mini whiteboards. A big thank you to those who attended on an unseasonably cold evening.

As a reminder, we return to school on **Tuesday 19th April** following the Easter break**.**

In addition please remember there is no school for students on the following dates:

Friday 29th April – additional bank holiday for the Queen's Jubilee
Monday 2nd May – May bank holiday
Tuesday 3rd May – Staff INSET day

I also need to inform parents and carers that I have taken the difficult decision to step down from my role as Headteacher of Falconer School with effect from the end of this academic year. It has been a wonderful experience leading the team at Falconer and getting to know and work with the students, and I have learnt a great deal from my time here that I will take with me. I am leaving to take up a new position within Bushey St James Trust from 1st September 2022. The Interim Executive Board will be in contact with parents and carers after the Easter break to inform you of their plans for the leadership of the school.

In the meantime, I will continue to lead as Headteacher throughout the Summer Term and work closely with the Interim Executive Board.

Finally, please see the letter from Hertfordshire County Council on the next page regarding Covid.

Have a lovely Easter break, I look forward to seeing the students on Tuesday 19th April.

Mrs Ash
Headteacher

As we step into spring, we're encouraging residents to be kind and stay healthy by following simple steps to live life safely with COVID-19, stop the spread and protect others. For up-to-date information go to https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/covidliving

The simple steps people are encouraged to follow are:

- Be kind – respect people wearing masks or keeping their distance from you. They may well be very vulnerable to infection
- Be informed – know your level of risk and get good, trusted advice on managing it
- Be vaccinated or boosted – ensure you and those around you are vaccinated when invited
- Be safe – manage your risk when socially mixing (hands, face, space, fresh air)
- Be prepared – if you get Covid, stay at home and get early treatment should you need it
- Be supported – as well as your family and friends, HertsHelp can offer support

COVID-19 vaccination

Vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment at: https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/

The national booking system for healthy 5- to -11 year olds to receive their COVID-19 vaccination will open from 2 April. Parents and carers can book appointments at larger vaccination centres and in some community pharmacies. Appointments will also be available at some GP run sites, if so they will contact you directly and you can book through your practice.

Vaccinations are already available for clinically vulnerable 5- to 11-year-olds, and children in this age group who live with someone who has a weakened immune system. Until now vaccinations for this 'at risk' group of children have been available through GPs and special schools, but parents and carers will also be able to book through these through the national booking service from 2 April.

For more information on vaccinations for this age group visit: https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people

Stay at home if you have symptoms

Guidance remains that if you have symptoms of COVID-19, **(a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)**, you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, regardless of a positive test result. Get advice about staying at home and avoiding contact with others

There is support available locally to help people who need to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

Please don't send children and young people back to school following the Easter holidays if they have any symptoms or feel unwell. There continues to be a high number of outbreaks across Hertfordshire's childcare and education settings – they need our support to help protect our communities and have the least disruption to children's learning and development as possible.

We'd like to once again say thank you for continuing to play your part and for helping to keep yourselves and others safe. We hope you enjoy a great Easter break.

Hertfordshire County Council