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Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of this term, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect upon the changes we have been able to make due to the amendments in the guidance we have to follow.

## Assemblies

It is, after two years, superb to see our students in their year groups again. I know many people are still rightly concerned about COVID, but we can find little linkage between the students who are reported as unfortunately testing positive for COVID and where they sit in assemblies. Meeting our students as year groups has allowed us to host:

- Author visits – seeing the students engage in a more meaningful way with their writing tasks has been superb
- Careers – this is vital for all year groups, be it Year 11 being informed about apprenticeships or Year 9 learning about future employment opportunities to inspire them
- Personal Development – Year 8 have, for example, learnt about personal money management from representatives from Barclays Bank and Year 10 about global issues, such as the role of the United Nations.
- Standards – students wear our uniform more consistently with our expectations clearly communicated to students and staff.

## Student wellbeing

We are all very proud of our Year 12 Mental Health Champions. These students, who have received training from RAPE CRISIS/Qualifications in Fitness have even achieved a Level 2 qualification in Mental Health Awareness. These students are now working with our younger students who may be more willing to speak to older students about their concerns rather than an adult. These year 12 students are in S3 (students will find this room) at break and lunch time.

## Uniform

Parents have been so supportive in re-establishing our uniform standards. To be clear we will continue to expect students to wear their PE kit on days when they have PE. After the May half term (when it is warmer) all students can wear their PE kit every day. Currently, I am working with the Parent Panel/Student Council to amend our uniform policy to allow coats of any colour/skorts for PE activities. These suggestions have come from a combination of parents/students.

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## **English as an Additional Language**

At St Peter's School there are now 42 languages other than English which students speak as their home language. Naturally, there is a huge variation in students' ability to write/speak English which will of course be vital skills to have, remembering GCSE examinations require students to have an average reading age of 15. Therefore, we are enhancing our provision for students as they develop their English language skills.

## **Parents evening**

We have moved to offering split virtual/onsite parents' evenings. This has raised the attendance to 62% at our recent Year 8 event, up from 50% for the previous parents' evening. I know (from personal experience as a parent) that the online version is brutal as it counts down your time and the onsite meetings are frustrating as another parent may have taken your slot, or neither you or your child can find A9 (which is not near A8) or H7 (which is in another building to H6). But please tell us of any concerns that you have about attending these events. We may be able to help with the online version or arrange for you to meet staff towards the end of the evening when there are fewer parents on site.

## **Site works**

I am really pleased to state that we have secured over £300,000 of additional funding to develop our site further. This will provide:

- Refurbished Post 16 centre
- 2 refurbished IT rooms
- 2 new IT rooms
- Refurbishment of a building to create further classrooms
- An outdoor area for our SEND students.

I thank the Cam Academy Trust for their ongoing support of the school in order to provide a learning environment of a high standard. I look forward to presenting you with the next round of developments as we strive to provide the best learning environment for our students.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Bennet  
Head Teacher