



Archway

1 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It was wonderful to read this week an email from a member of the community thanking one of our younger students who, as they were walking home from school, stopped to thank an NHS worker for all the work they have done this year. This 'random act of kindness' was a wonderful reflection of the community spirit which we encourage at our school. It is important that all of our students realise the impact their behaviour can have on the local community so I would encourage you all to reinforce this message that whilst our students are out and about wearing the school uniform they are all ambassadors of Archway.

Calling Multi-Generation 'Archway' Families

September 2021 marks the 'Diamond Anniversary' (60 years) of Archway School in its present form. We are looking for families where 3 (or maybe even 4) generations have attended the school. If this is you, please get in touch as we would like to celebrate these long-term supporters of Archway.

COVID-19

The school will continue with the same, strict approach to COVID-19 with the same timetable, one-way systems, hand-washing, bubbles and expectation of mask wearing whilst indoors. We are expecting some updates from the government over the Easter break and we shall review this based upon the latest advice should it change. Students and staff should all have collected their test kits this week for testing to continue over the Easter holidays. Latest advice is: if a positive test is found through the home (LFD) test kits, you must isolate and then take a confirmatory PCR test within 48 hours. Any positive cases must still be reported to the school even during the Easter holidays (email: admin@archwayschool.net). Thank you for your support in managing the home learning for those students who were asked to isolate this week. Assuming we have no fresh cases, all students and staff should be able to return to face-to-face lessons next term.

We have been asked to forward the attached letter from Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education, to our students.

Assessments for Years 11, 12 and 13

I would like to thank the teachers and students for their efforts to ensure that adequate evidence is prepared for the grading of students this year. We are following the latest guidelines which were published less than a week ago and a new policy has been drafted. We expect all students to have undertaken a number of assessments which could be coursework, mock examinations, portfolio evidence, mini-tests or a combination of these. This process has started and will continue after Easter. The decisions on each grade awarded will go through a moderation process to ensure fairness.

Archway Flag

The keen eyed amongst you will have noticed a new flag flying at the school entrance. Zuzanna in Year 7 was the winner of our design competition. Her design promotes harmony amongst our diverse school community. We have tasked our Year 7 of September 2021 with the task of designing the next one.

We hope that the students have a safe, enjoyable Easter holiday and we look forward to seeing them all again in a little over 2 weeks.

Yours faithfully

Kieron Smith
Headteacher



A letter to young people from Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education

I wanted to let you all know how grateful I am for the way you have responded to the huge challenges you have all faced throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Whether this is your first year at school or your final year of college, I know the disruption you have all faced to your education since the pandemic began has been incredibly challenging and has meant completely changing the way you learn - either learning remotely at home or continuing at school or college with fewer of your friends around you and lots of safety measures in place.

Whether you were at home or at school, the disruption last term and throughout last year asked a lot of you and your families. I am filled with admiration for the incredible way you all responded and the resilience you have shown. Not being in school or college with your teachers and friends was a huge sacrifice. Everything you did, with the help of your families and your schools and colleges, and everything you missed out on – time in school, taking exams, seeing friends, playing sport and much more - made such a huge difference to helping us stop the spread of the virus. I want to say a huge thank you to all of you.

Getting all young people back into school and college safely has been my priority throughout the pandemic. I know how vital it is not just for your education but also to spend time with your friends and to feel happy and secure. All our lives have changed a lot in the past year but the challenges that young people have faced have been some of the hardest. I will continue doing everything in my power to make sure that all of you are supported to boost any areas of work you've had less time at school to study, get the qualifications you deserve and have the opportunities you need to succeed.

Continuing to follow all the safety measures your schools and colleges have worked hard to put in place, as well as taking a test twice a week, is so important and helps us to stop the virus spreading. The testing that thousands of you have been taking part in at school and college is a vital part of this. I am so grateful to you and all the staff who have supported you to do this. I know your schools and colleges have worked incredibly hard to prepare you to test yourself at home.

As most of you at secondary school and college move to testing yourself regularly at home, it's vital that you continue to test and report online twice a week through the Easter holidays and after you return to school. Home testing twice a week for you and everyone you live with makes a huge difference and means you are playing a really important role in helping us move back to a more normal way of life. Your school or college will continue to support you and make sure you have tests. You and your family can also find out more about home testing [here](#).

I was delighted to see the enthusiasm with which so many of you returned to school at the beginning of March and I am sure you have had a wonderful few weeks catching up with your friends and teachers. It was fantastic to meet pupils delighted to return to school on my visits to schools like Arden Academy and Bedford Free School and to see so many more of your reunions on social media. I hope that the new term will be just as enjoyable and successful for all of you.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education