

Dear Parent/ Carer

31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

I look forward to Easter every year. For a start my birthday is at the start of April and whilst I no longer like, or even dare, to count the years I do enjoy the cards and presents! Like many of our staff I enjoy driving to and returning from work in daylight (most days) as the clocks go forward. Somehow the daffodils and other flowers that I cannot name brighten the mood and point to brighter, sunnier and warmer times ahead. Of course, there is also the Easter chocolate!!! It was so wonderful this morning to see the children who have excelled at their remote learning enjoying chocolate.

At the end of this term, like all terms, I feel tired but have a sense of optimism about what will come in the summer term. It has been wonderful to welcome the young people back to the academy after so long away. The way in which they have returned has brought a smile to our faces and long may it continue. Our young people are resilient, like their routines and enjoy school. We are just delighted to have them back.

#### **Next term**

Next term will bring new challenges. Year 7 students will move around classrooms for different lessons and some practical lessons will start taking place in Key Stage 3. I am well aware that for a lot of our students these are their favourite lessons. From June 21<sup>st</sup> we may even be able to open the academy site up wider still and allow movement between all zones. There are some key changes that we would very much like to keep in place: social zoning and pastoral desks in corridors have worked really well for instance.

#### **Assessed grade process**

We are currently working extremely hard on the Year 11 and Year 13 teacher assessed grade process. Last week Mr Sidhu and I presented our rationale to the students. The JCQ national guidance was only released late last week and there is still much more to come. We really do appreciate that this may be unsettling for our students but please trust the process. There is an expectation that all schools publish the rationale for awarding grades and we will do just that in time; this message is understood and shared across all departments. We will do what is fair, robust and has a rigour befitting that of our academy. As I am sure you would expect much of our training day time on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April will be spent looking at TAG protocols, assessments and moderation; this will be time, most definitely, well spent.

## Lockdown

As lockdown eases can I please ask that we all continue to follow the national guidance? We have had a brief interlude in positive cases until this week. Our actions in requesting certain students to self-isolate have been swift and always taken following guidance. Our academy protocols will continue to be tight and place safety at the heart of our operations, please support us in making sure that this is not compromised by out of school behaviours. If students get a positive LFD test at home, they must now also get a PCR test for confirmation. The PCR test should be booked immediately and should be undertaken within 2 days. If you need more advice, please call 119 for assistance.

**Students who had a positive LFD test result**, and their close contacts and other members of their household, should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance and while awaiting the PCR result.

If students have a positive result within 2 days of their last day in school, please report to school email: [covid19alert@georgesalter.com](mailto:covid19alert@georgesalter.com).

## Character Survey

Developing the whole student is something that is very important to all staff at George Salter Academy. Alongside our strong academic curriculum sits a Personal Development curriculum to help support each student to be the best person they can be when they leave the Academy. Our Character Programme is designed to equip students to have the tools and knowledge to 'make the right decisions at the right time'. To begin preparing for next year we want your views to help this process.

To help us on this journey please complete this survey which has also been texted to all parents too - <https://forms.office.com/r/TzgDSsbRYB>

If you would like to be a part of this journey then please contact Mr McInerney on [j.mcinerney@georgesalter.com](mailto:j.mcinerney@georgesalter.com)

## Safeguarding

Please do visit our safeguarding pages on the school website for advice and support on a range of safeguarding issues. If you feel that you need support over the Easter break then please do look here first as we have a list of external sites we can direct you too for further support.

Next term we are creating an Online Safety group in school and we are looking for volunteers who would like to contribute and offer their support. If you are interested in this please contact our Online Safety Coordinator Raju Amin on [r.amin@georgesalter.com](mailto:r.amin@georgesalter.com)

### School Lunch

In response to student and parent voice we are trialling the roll out of a couple of hot food items, starting with those students who currently order a school lunch. As you know compliance with Covid guidance has raised difficulties in delivering hot food arising from operating in zones, not having a large dining room and keeping food warm and meeting food standards. We are now in a position to trial the inclusion of 2 hot food items within the pre-order lunch menu. The trial will run from 19th April to 30th April following which we expect to be in a position to roll the service out to others. If a student wishes to add either of the items to their lunch order they must complete the form sent previously and return to the Student Welfare Manager by Wednesday 31 March 2021.

If a student doesn't want to change their current lunch order then it will continue to be delivered to the classroom during their period 4 lesson. Please note the lunch order can be amended/cancelled at any time. Just let the Student Welfare Manager know. Cancellations will take effect the day of notification. New orders will commence from the following Monday after receipt of the order. Lunch orders need to be signed by a parent/guardian.

It is always sad to say good bye to staff at the end of a term and it feels worse having to do so without being able to arrange a group farewell. This week Mrs Garcha, Miss E. Jones (SWM) and Mr Sidhu will be leaving the academy. Whilst I am sorry to see her leave I am delighted that

### Staff & Governors

Miss Jones has secured a promoted post and just know that she will be a huge success in her new role. She has been brilliant in all that she does and has been a really good source of support to many, including me! Mr Sidhu has been, in my time, not simply a superb school leader but also a friend and someone whose advice I value immensely. I really do wish him all the very best in the future!

We are lucky in that we have been able to appoint new Student Welfare Managers and I am delighted that Mrs Bellingham was successful in an internal application to the post of Vice Principal. I am also thrilled that Mrs H. Jones will take over the day to day management of our 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

We have also seen some changes to our governing body and I am delighted that Mr Hussain and Mrs Khatun will be joining our governing body as parent governors.

## Messages from the year groups

**Year 7** has settled back into academy life really positively after remote learning. Great comments from lots of staff about their enthusiasm and engagement in lessons. Most recently has seen year 7 getting to grips with set changes, again this has been a smooth transition and I have been really impressed with how maturely and sensibly they are moving in and around the art block. 7T1 have again had to isolate this half term, well done to those students who continued to show great commitment and engagement to remote learning. Special mention must go to Wiktor Kaszynski, he not only won the GSA poetry competition, but was a joint winner of the 'Best of OAT' award from the World Book Day events. What a fantastic achievement!

**Year 9** have had a really positive start since coming back to in-school lessons. We have been very impressed with attitude and dedication to learning, especially showing great interest in subjects the students have opted to study for GCSE next year. There has also been some fantastic student led sessions this term across both form-time and PSHE, with student leaders volunteering to teach certain tutor sessions. This has been brilliant to watch. Special mention goes to Zubayer Ahmed for winning the 'One World in One School award' for his exceptional role modelling to the rest of the year and for being the overall credit champion 9 weeks running. Also massive thank you to Jamie Russell who is our OAT regional student leader representative who has been working very hard with the rest of the OAT West team to set up some exciting projects after Easter'.

## Success from Post 16

All Post 16 students are well underway with their Duke Of Edinburgh Award, doing weekly activities for their Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections. Students have been taking part in remote volunteering experiences such as: helping with conservation efforts by spotting wild animals in remote locations from satellite images.

We will close for Easter holidays for students on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March and return on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

As always, thank you for your support



Adrian Price  
Principal