

12th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Despite being only 6 weeks in length this half term has been very challenging. I am very grateful for your support and the hard work of all the staff and students in making this term a success.

You might recall that we started January with a phased return of students, we had the late notice of COVID testing of students and then, within a couple of days, we had moved to a full national lockdown and a return to remote learning. Against the constant media briefings that future earnings will be greatly reduced, years of catch up will be required etc. etc. we can be confident that our work, in partnership, will ensure that students slip back into the planned delivery of the curriculum with very little discomfort when we are able to welcome the full college back.

While we can't say for sure when the return to school for all will come, we are ready and raring to go as soon as we know it is safe. We are waiting for the announcements that are due on 22nd February and we will then take some time to digest and reflect on what is the best model for all students and staff.

Engagement reports

When the term restarts on 22nd February we will continue with our live lessons and you should expect the third engagement report to be collated during that first week and it should be sent home to you by 2nd March at the latest. These updates are for your information and to support you in ensuring that you know which subjects your child is, or is not, engaging with. We will endeavour to contact home in the extreme cases or when we have seen a pattern of patchy engagement over the term so far. However, this is a very time-consuming activity, and I would rather ask for your support in encouraging engagement at home so that I can ask staff to focus on producing effective live lessons.

Parent Survey

A few weeks ago, we shared a survey with parents to collect feedback on the remote learning experience. We had 350 responses from parents and the feedback resulted in us making tweaks to the length of lessons and the amount of additional homework at Key Stage 3. Can I ask you to please complete a second survey to reflect on experiences over the past fortnight? The link to the survey is pasted below and if you can complete this by Tuesday 23rd February, I would be hugely grateful:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KbjZ4RaYVEydnK3i2OOqbrC0fQT7JPVBg4oUueNnoiBURTRQUks0Wlc1MTNXVkm2MUTbNEU0V0dGUy4u>

COVID19 infections over half term

If your child currently attends our keyworker provision in college and is tested for COVID19 between today and Monday as a result of the onset of symptoms – can you please report it via our covid email address: covid19@elycollege.co.uk This will enable us to track and trace students who might have been exposed within college.

I wish you all a restful break – I am not sure who will feel the benefit of five days with no remote learning more, parents or the students! We are very grateful for your continued support and look forward to the next few months with real enthusiasm.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Warburton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Warburton
Principal