

26 February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to school after the holiday. I hope that you and your families had an enjoyable break.

### **Lent**

Today sees the start of the season of Lent and the beginning of our preparations for Easter. We are marking the beginning of Lent with our Ashes Liturgy and throughout the season there will be opportunities for further prayer and reflection for all our students. I would like to remind you that all students and their parents are warmly welcome to attend our regular Friday morning mass, held each week in the school chapel at 8.10 am.

### **Coronavirus**

As I am sure you will be aware from news reports the government is regularly updating health advice around the Coronavirus outbreak. The latest Government advice can be found [here](#). As a school we are following this advice closely and will update children and families should the situation change. We have provided all students with briefings on good hygiene habits to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases, as part of their recent Science lessons. Key advice includes:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze and ensure that you bin the tissue
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water and/or use a hand sanitiser gel to kill germs

Please encourage your child to follow this advice and ensure that they have tissues and hand sanitiser to bring to school.

### **Measles**

The local authority has asked us to promote their initiative to ensure that all children and young adults are up to date with their vaccinations against measles. They are holding drop-in advice clinics about vaccination in different locations across Wandsworth in the next few weeks. Further details of these can be found on our [website](#).

### **RUAH**

A number of high-profile media stories have highlighted the impact that bullying and unkind remarks can have on individuals, whether these are made in person or online. In school this term as part of our regular Personal Development programme we are focusing on our RUAH values and in particular on AFFECTION as a means of helping our students, ensuring that they show kindness and consideration to one another and feel able to speak out when they encounter unkind remarks of behaviour directed towards them either in person or online.

As a school we take the wellbeing and safety of our students very seriously. You will know from the news and wider media that there are specific concerns around the use of social media by young people and the general amounts of screen time teenagers are exposed to and the direct links between excessive “screen time” and poor general wellbeing and mental health. At the back of this letter is a list of the current age restrictions on social media apps. It is important that as parents you ensure that your child is adhering to these age restrictions. More parental advice around social media usage can be found on the NSPCC website as well as on the school website under the “[e-Safety](#)” tab. Please do take the time to have a look at this.

**We strongly recommend that students in Year 7-9 do not have smart phones at all but where parents wish for their child to have a phone a basic call/text phone is used.** Whilst this is not a rule that we seek to enforce, we are hoping that you will support this for the benefit and wellbeing of your child. Linked to this, where concerns arise around a student's use of social media or other apps the school will respond robustly and will also consider parental engagement and support of this formal recommendation for our students.

### **Pre-Public Examinations**

We have started this half-term with our second round of Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) for students right across the school. The timetable for these can be found on our [website](#). I hope that your child is revising well for these. There are materials available on our website to support with their revision which can be found [here](#).

### **Maintaining high standards**

Please do ensure that your child is fully equipped for school, particularly for their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). Students are put at a real disadvantage if they turn up for exams without black pens, pencils and other basic stationery items.

Can I also remind you that we expect all students to wear their uniform correctly. As we are in the period when the weather remains cold and wet please can I also remind you that only plain, dark outer jackets are permitted to be worn by students. Hoodies and brightly coloured coats cannot be worn to school and these will be confiscated if they are seen by staff. If girls are wearing socks over tights these should be plain dark socks that blend in. For those students who do not have a school tie these can be bought from the student office for £7. Students will not be allowed to borrow spare ties and will be expected to buy a replacement.

Please also remind your child that they are representing the school when they travel here and return home in the afternoon. Their conduct in public should be exemplary at all times.

### **Diary Dates**

Please note the following dates in your diary:

- 16 March – INSET
- 19 March – Year 11 parents' evening
- 26 March – Year 12/13 parents' evening
- 2 April – Easter Concert
- 3 April – End of term

### **Bosco Times**

The Spring Edition of our Bosco Times newspaper, containing lots of pictures and stories about the great work that your children are doing is now out. Please have a look at it [here](#) on our website.

Once again can I thank you for your continued support of the school.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Dunne  
Headteacher

# Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?

## Under 13

-  Roblox
-  PopJam
-  FaceTime

## 13+

-  Twitter
-  Facebook and Messenger
-  Viber
-  WeChat
-  Monkey
-  Yubo
-  Dubsplash
-  Instagram
-  TikTok
-  Skype
-  Google Hangouts
-  Reddit
-  Snapchat
-  Pinterest

## 16+

-  WhatsApp
-  Telegram Messenger
-  Tumblr

## 17+

-  Line
-  Sarahah
-  Tellonym

Sourced from NSPCC website October 2019

## 18+ or 13 with parent's permission

-  YouTube
-  WeChat
-  Kik
-  Flickr
-  Play Store
-  Spotify  
(12 with parental permission)