

Principal's Blog

Friday 26th March 2021

Time for a break and a well earned rest

Following a full and eventful term we are now closing for Easter break. To reflect on what we have all been through in the last year is mind blowing. I would like to think that as difficult, frustrating and sometimes isolating as the last year has been, that we have also learnt or developed new skills. Key ones being our ability to adapt and change our ways of working and learning, our resilience in coping with change and the way we will always look back on this as a time of trusting and communicating with others to keep ourselves safe. I would personally like to thank our students, staff and community for their support and the way you have worked with us.

On the 23rd March at noon we joined the rest of the country in holding a minute of silence to allow for reflection. I was with Year 9 at dinner during this time period, watching the whole year group stop and reflect in silence was in deed humbling.

Testing at home has been a huge success, however, it is vital to keep testing throughout the Easter holidays. Students have taken home more test kits this week. If you are testing, test twice a week at home 3-4 days apart and please remember to report the results online to the NHS: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and to us on our Google form (which your child has access to in the year group classroom and has been text to parents). Please ensure that your child has a test before returning to the academy after the break, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back so that we find and isolate any positive cases. The Google form will be monitored closely over the first 6 days of the holiday for any positive cases in case any close contact tracing is required.

Our virtual parents evenings have been a huge success, thank you for all the feedback received. We will reflect on the use of this in the future. Many of you welcomed that you could stay in the comfort of your own home and not need to park or travel, that there were no queues or waiting to see a teacher, that discussions were confidential and that the 5 minutes per teacher was quality time.

Students have been able to wear outside coats (not hoodies) in classrooms where it has been cold. It has been evident over the last week that we will quickly be able to remove the need for this after Easter. On our return, it will be the teacher in the classroom who decides if outdoor clothing is required, depending on the weather conditions.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you a wonderful Easter break, it is time to take a well deserved rest and recharge the batteries for a full summer term ahead. Year 11 have the opportunity to continue collecting the evidence for their Teacher Assessed Grades. I look forward to seeing all students return on Monday 12th April.

As always, take care and stay safe

Information Site to access support can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4pwhzqa>



Guardian Summaries

We often receive from parents questions about how they can further support their child. One method is by signing up to **Guardian Summaries**. A detailed support area for this is here <https://classroom.freeston.outwood.com/home>. Guardian Summaries will allow you to see what work your child has been assigned.

Wellbeing for all is vital

A reminder that there is the green button on our website taking to [Mental Wellbeing - Outwood Academy Freeston](#) and our own support site [Mental Wellbeing Resource Site](#) please use these and share with others.

Keep in contact with us at:

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[@OutwoodFreeston](https://twitter.com/OutwoodFreeston)

