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Dear Parents/Carers,

I write ahead of the long weekend for students away from school to facilitate the staff training day on Monday 28 March. I hope this can be an opportunity to rest and recharge for the remaining two weeks of school this term. Teachers were again pleased with the opportunity to see parents and carers at both the Year 13 and 11 face-to-face subject evenings this term - I know students are now busy preparing for their final exams in each group. We still have a few key events over the coming weeks so please do continue to look at the school calendar, the Year 8 Subject & Options evening and Dance Recital to note a couple.

It has been wonderful to see some of our young people embody our school values with their work in supporting those directly affected by the war in Ukraine. We have spent time during tutorial sessions discussing the crisis, but many young people within our community have done so much more; organising charity events, raising money, donating food and household items and simply showing respect for our global community with gestures of support.

We are awaiting the updated Covid-19 school operating guidance that is due to reflect the national changes from 1 April. I will write to you as soon as that is released should it require any significant change. We are expecting an end to free universal tests, testing and isolation requirements for most. We are expecting the school to almost operate as it would have done pre-pandemic but with a continuation of safer behaviours such as increased ventilation, space and the promotion of good hand and respiratory hygiene.

It can be easy to get caught up in the treadmill of school life, especially in the run up to the exams, but I wanted to share with you a call I took from a local resident this week. As many of you will know we are growing our Duke of Edinburgh programme here at school – it is such a fantastic award scheme that builds so many valuable skills in those that complete it. The local resident I spoke to had come across several of our student groups in the local community on their navigation training days whilst dog walking. He wanted to tell me what polite, respectful, committed young people they were, he said he was thrilled to meet such high quality young people and he hoped one day his own grandchildren would grow up in a likeminded fashion. Well done to all.

On that note, I hope the weather holds and you have a great weekend.

Mike Lowdell
Head Teacher