



12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear families,

Thank you for your amazing hard work and support with your child's learning in what has been another challenging time for all.

Hopefully, the Government will soon be able to publish their "road map" out of national lockdown in order that some form of normality can return to all of our lives.

The Government and Public Health England have asked all of us to continue with social distancing protocols, especially over the half term holidays.

### **February half term**

Mortimer will be closed to all students during the half term holidays, commencing on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. We will reopen for key worker and vulnerable students on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**.

### **Wellbeing**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of February saw Mrs Thornton launch our wellbeing/no screen day. I hope you agree it was a welcome, and very successful, addition to our calendar and, having seen some of the photos that students submitted, it looked like a lot of our families had a great time taking the opportunity to look after their own wellbeing. The resources we shared were entered into a Children's Mental Health Week competition, and I am very pleased to say that we won.

### **Student rewards**

Thank you to all parents/carers who have been accessing Class Charts and awarding their child with the home learning award. It is great to see staff and families both working together to recognise the hard work that our students are currently doing.

### **Internet safety**

We have teamed up with National Online Safety to provide parents and carers with free access to online resources, courses and guides. If you would like to create a free account, please follow this link: <http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/mortimer-community-college> to register.

### **Summer examinations**

The DfE have recently finished their consultation about arrangements for GCSE/Vocational examination alternatives this summer. It will be interesting to see how the evidence base for awarding grades and the appeals process will work.



I will, of course, update you as soon as I know more.

In the meantime, it is clear that the work students are doing now will continue to play a huge part in the award of their final grades. Therefore, it is essential that **all students**, especially year 11, **do their very best** with regards to the work being asked of them.

### **Mass testing**

At the current time of writing, the Government still plans to go ahead and offer mass testing to all students and staff upon our return to school. The army were very complimentary of our set up and I have been informed they have referred us to Downing Street as a centre of excellent practice, which is hopefully very reassuring to all of our school community.

### **Finally**

I am sure that further challenges lie ahead in the coming weeks and months, but rest assured we will do everything we can to support your child through whatever lies in wait.

Whilst we are still in lockdown, wellbeing calls home will continue to happen next term.

I look forward to seeing all of our students and staff being able to return to school in, hopefully, the near future.

Take care and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hignett', written in a cursive style.

**Mr Hignett**  
**Head Teacher**