



Secondary phase newsletter

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

14th May 2021

Dear Families,

This week has been an important one in terms of the national roadmap out of “lockdown”. We awaited the updates for schools and whilst there are some important alterations, the mitigations and the need to continue with many of our established practices continues.

The end is now so much insight but we urge you all to:

- Pay attention to hand hygiene. We expect all children and young people to continue to wash and sanitise their hands regularly
- Keep to bubbles and agreed groups. As families, this too must continue
- Be in well ventilated indoor areas or be outside
- Keep your social distance
- Masks- On May 17th, in secondary, students need not wear face masks if they choose not to. Staff need no longer wear masks in classrooms but should continue to do so in communal areas
- In secondary, all students and indeed, all of our staff should continue to carry out their lateral flow tests twice weekly

The Government is signalling to us to start to think again about re-introducing some of our normal activities, which occur outside of the bubble structure, and further guidance is being produced.

Student leadership

And so as we return to reconnect as the Simon Balle All-through Community, we are able to get back into the normal routines and rhythms of our school life. One such pleasurable activity is the selection of our Senior Student Leaders, our Head and Deputy prefects. This year we were delighted to receive a large number of applications from a range of Year 12 students who wanted to not only put back something into their school community but also make a difference. Ben Morris, our Head of Sixth Form, along with his team, devised a series of selection activities, from which a final shortlist was produced. These finalists were then interviewed by members of the Senior Leadership Team. A huge thank you and well done to all applicants as the standard was so high this year. It is therefore with great pleasure that I can announce our team for this year:

Amelie D - Head Girl

Ewan C - Head Boy

Emily C - Deputy Head Girl

Harry C - Deputy Head Boy



These applicants have already a proven record of leadership both within the local community and in school and shared with us their ideas and passion for social justice. We look forward to working with them and wish them success and happiness in their role. One of their first tasks is to assist Rachel Kirk to appoint our very first Student leaders in Y6. Our first Year 6 cohort can look forward to a range of roles, from ambassadors in music, sports, eco and digital technologies, to our own Larch Head girls/boys and their deputies.

An all-through student leadership responsibility currently open to applications in Years 3 - 5, with secondary applications now received and training begun, is ***The Diana Award - Anti Bullying Ambassador programme***. Supported by HRH The Duke of Cambridge, The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Campaign engages young people, parents and teachers to change the attitudes, behaviour and culture of bullying by building skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and offline. We very much look forward to working with our young people on such an important initiative, fully in line with our Simon Balle values.

Year 5 Maths challenge

Simon Balle All-through School entered its very first "Hertfordshire school's Y5 Maths challenge team" earlier this month. The students are to be highly congratulated on their successful outcome. Well done to Summer L, Csongyi F, Dylan W and Chloe P.

Appointments for September

We continue to appoint staff for the next academic year. We are currently advertising for English posts in secondary and also Learning Support Assistants. Please look at our "vacancies" section on our website as we will also be posting other roles later this month, including a lead for our Library which is of course linked so closely to delivering our literacy strategy.

Research Projects for the University of Hertfordshire

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week and the University of Hertfordshire is running a research project that aims to study if physical exercise is an effective treatment of depression in children aged 13-17 years old. They are looking for a parent/carer of a teenager (who doesn't have to be experiencing depression) to join the steering group of the study. Time commitment is only for two hours, 2-3 times a year to join the group virtually, to give a parent/carer's perspective on raising teenagers and their thoughts on the study. A £20 voucher for each session would be given as an acknowledgement of their kind contribution.

[View the leaflet here.](#)

Secondly, a research project also being run by the University of Hertfordshire is analysing selective eating during the Covid-19 lockdown. Research has been undertaken to look at how the Covid-19 lockdown has affected the general population's eating habits, but in particular, how has it impacted our children with Autism Spectrum Disorder? This study is looking for parents and caregivers of children with ASD to share what they have observed and experienced during the Covid-19 lockdown. Interviews will take just 45 minutes of your time and you could contribute to some valuable research supported by the University of Hertfordshire. If you would like to take part please register your interest via the link here:

https://herts.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_72IPgqs0hyESgNo

Wishing you all a happy and fulfilling fortnight ahead!

Best wishes,

Mrs Alison Saunders (Headteacher) and Mrs Rachel Kirk (Vice Principal)