

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a busy week at school with us welcoming pupils in Years 5 and 6 into the school to experience secondary school life. You may have seen this on Twitter (@carresgrammar), Instagram (carresgrammarschool) or Facebook, and this will give you a flavour of what the students experienced. The energy and enthusiasm of the pupils was infectious, and we look forward to seeing the Year 6 pupils join us in Year 7 in September.

For me, it was great to finally meet the parents/carers of our new Year 7 intake for September, too, at socially distanced evening sessions. Whilst the government's delay to ending all restrictions has led some schools taking the decision to cancel induction events, we decided that the benefits of good transition in the crucial months between primary and secondary schools outweighed the risk and with careful risk assessments in place we went ahead with a busy week. Thanks to parents/carers and to local primary headteachers who were part of that decision and to all the staff who have put all their efforts into making sure those days and evenings ran smoothly.

We are opening the school from 5 to 9 July to prospective students and parents in our Open Week, which is by appointment only so that we can maintain the Covid protocols.

Ministerial Visit - Rt Hon Nick Gibb

This week we were delighted and honoured to welcome the Rt Hon Nick Gibb, Minister for Schools Standards, and Dr Caroline Johnson, MP, Sleaford and North Hykeham, to the school to meet staff and students, as well as discuss our plans to create world class facilities for future generations of young people in the town. We are aware of the challenges that lie ahead, but with their support we are clear that our long-term plan will help to support the town's economic development as well as bring significant benefit to our future students. It was a very positive visit and he was very complementary about the school, remarking that there is really nice feel about the school, that the staff are very friendly and clearly create a good ethos, and the students he met he said were very impressive, being articulate, passionate and committed to Carre's.

Year 11 and 13 Grades

We have been working closely with the exam boards regarding the submission of grades and evidence for this year's GCSE and A Level results. A separate letter will be published in the coming days for Year 11 and Year 13 students and their parents/carers detailing the arrangements for results days, as well as the appeals system.

Sixth Form Induction

It will be good to see our Year 11 students next week as they undertake their induction into the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form. Many of the students will be having lessons in all three schools in the town and will be provided work for the summer that will support their Sixth Form studies. Please could I ask that all who are returning take a Lateral Flow Test before they come to school.

Lateral Flow Test Reminder

There has been a case of a student testing positive at one of the town's schools, though not at Carre's. It is a timely reminder that Covid has not gone away, and nor is it likely to in the immediate future, so we need to continue to encourage the students to follow the best practice of undertaking twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests, regular hand washing and social

distancing. Students should keep using the Lateral Flow Tests and uploading results to the school and NHS portals. These can be found on our website home page.

As society continues to reopen this testing is hugely reassuring to the many families who are still protecting vulnerable family members. As a guide we know that approximately 68-80% of each year group is regularly testing and recording their results.

Thank you to all parents/carers for your support with this. Lateral Flow test kits are given out to all students in form time. We recommend testing on Sunday and Wednesday. If you have any queries please do contact us: enquiries@carres.uk.

Everyone's Invited

You might be aware of the website *Everyone's Invited*, which has been created for people who have been subjected to public sexual harassment, rape, or abuse to share their stories. Our school has been named on this website, along with over 3000 other schools. We drew students' attention to the issues before the Easter break and recently we have been doing assemblies about public sexual harassment with form tutors following this up with their form (Years 7 to 10). Year 12 female students have given the boys in Years 7 to 10 the benefit of their experiences, which has been powerful and hopefully will make them stop and think how what they do and say impacts on others. It is an important issue and we all need to be aware of it and call out inappropriate behaviours and comments so that the young people have a clear and consistent message; the perpetrator is the one at fault and it is wrong. We are trying to educate our students and realise that it can be difficult, but it is something that I know a lot of people feel very strongly about and would like to see eradicated, so ask that you join with us and discuss with your son/daughter.

We are one of the first schools to join the Our Streets Now / Our Schools Now Ambassador programme: <https://www.ourstreetsnow.org/our-schools>

Wellbeing for All - Peer to Peer and Parental Support

Helping friends when they are finding things difficult can be daunting. When a friend opens about how they are feeling, or tells someone about something they are struggling with, often young people might find that conversation tough and it can feel difficult to know what to say. This reaction is normal. It shows they care for that person and want to help them; it's part of our nature to want to support others and this is something of which we should all be proud. However, sometimes when we are supporting our friends, we can take on a lot of stress and it might feel like it is a burden on our own to help them. There are ways young people can help their friends and find people who can support them too, so that they don't feel overwhelmed and under pressure. This article from Young Minds gives some very helpful guidance about how young people might support a friend with their mental health. Why not have a read? It is parents/carers who are often asked first and this helpful article takes you through some helpful scenarios and signposts you to relevant other resources that can help you support your child when they are finding things a little overwhelming.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/supporting-a-friend-with-their-mental-health/>

News from our safeguarding partners

The following extracts are a message from the DfE in how we can protect young people from online pornography.

Minister urges parents to turn on children's phone filters

Vicky Ford says, "parents should turn on filters on their children's phones and their home broadband to protect them from dangerous pornography". The children's minister said that young people's perceptions of sex were being "warped" by access to online porn. Speaking in the House of Commons, she said: "Right now, it is estimated that 1.4m children access pornography every month in the UK. So please, parents, turn on your broadband filters and make sure that you understand and switch on the safety features on your children's phones and devices. Just as you would not put your children into physical danger, do not allow your child to go into digital danger." Meanwhile, Libby Nicholas, Managing Director of Dukes Education, a network of UK private schools, has said that ministers should revive plans for age verification of pornographic websites.

Let's Tackle Online Hate Together

Online hate can affect anyone and sharing hateful messages about individuals, groups or communities online can have serious consequences. The ubiquity of social media means it is now even easier to target people all over the world so it is important that children know how to respond and how they can set a positive example. The Euros, which has welcomed 24 teams from 24 different countries, playing in 11 cities across 1 continent, is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs and is the perfect way to deliver one universal message: let's tackle online hate together. In the attached guide, you will find several tips such as talking to trusted adults about upsetting things, setting a positive example online and remembering that you have the power to shape your online world.

Apprenticeships – Parent / Carer information events

Work Pays have organised online events specifically, for parents and carers to help them understand Modern Apprenticeships. Please register for one of the following events at least 24 hours beforehand if you would like to attend. This will enable Teams Invitations to be activated in preparation.

Parent / Carer event Tuesday 29 June 6 - 7pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/helping-my-child-with-an-apprenticeship-a-seminar-for-parents-carers-registration-158377779201>

Parent / Career event Wednesday 7 July 6 - 7 pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/helping-my-child-with-an-apprenticeship-a-seminar-for-parents-carers-registration-158379259629>

Parent / Carer event Thursday 15 July 6 - 7pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/helping-my-child-with-an-apprenticeship-a-seminar-for-parents-carers-registration-158380898531>

Parent / Carer event Tuesday 20 July 6:30 - 7:30 pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/helping-my-child-with-an-apprenticeship-a-seminar-for-parents-carers-registration-158386577517>

Parent / Carer event Tuesday 27 July 6 - 7 pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/helping-my-child-with-an-apprenticeship-a-seminar-for-parents-carers-registration-158387759051>

To visit the Work Pays website go to www.workpays.co.uk
or go to the Government website for current Apprenticeship vacancies
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Please see the attached flyer.

And, finally... thanks as ever for your continued support, it is very much appreciated by all at Carre's.

Yours faithfully

N M Law
Headteacher