

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the summer term, which I am sure will be as busy and productive as the previous terms. I hope that you have all had a pleasant Easter break and that your son/daughter has had the chance to rest, refresh and re-charge for the term ahead.

The government's 'roadmap' is onto its next stage and our measures still remain in place, albeit with the adjustments that I mentioned at the end last term as we cannot be complacent, but it feels that we are beginning to return to some of the old 'normality'. With this in mind I would like to remind and update you on a few things.

Year 11 and 13 Exam Grading

We have updated Year 11 and Year 13 students on the arrangements for teachers arriving at their final grades. Please do invite them to share the email they have all received with you: you may also like to look at this link <https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>. All students will be told by their teachers what evidence will be used to arrive at their final grade in each subject and students have been encouraged to share any queries or concerns if they have any (and haven't already raised them) before our Grade Validating Assessments (GVAs) are undertaken from 10 May onwards. Remember these assessments are a chance for students to validate and/or improve on their existing grades. Students must make sure they are available to attend these assessments and we urge you to avoid booking any medical appointments, for example, for this period. The GVAs will largely take place in the weeks beginning 10 and 17 May but some will inevitably run into the following week beginning 24 May and all students must be available that week too.

You may be aware from media reports that on 19 April the exam boards made the additional assessment materials most schools will use, in some format, public. Whilst many of us have questioned the sense of this, what is certainly true is that it would not have been possible to keep exam board assessment materials secure and that it is fairest to all students nationally if they are available to view on the exam board websites, rather than being shared over social media as would inevitably happen. Carre's students will be given clear instructions on the content they will be assessed on in May and we will share the schedule for those assessments with students and parents/carers shortly.

The Big Ask

Millions of children in England are going to be given the chance to tell the government what their childhoods look like.

'The Big Ask' will find out from children what life is like for them, what hopes and aspirations they have for the future and what challenges they face in reaching their goals.

The survey is being led by the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, who thinks it is important to look at the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on children's lives. The survey will run from 19 April to 19 May and to help our students complete the survey, an assembly will be delivered to them to explain what it is all about. Further detail will then be sent out in the next Head's Update about how students can take part and a link provided so that they can access the survey.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Some dates for your diary. Information will be sent from Mrs Walker, DoE Co-ordinator, directly to those students involved:

25 April	Year 10/Year 11 – kit issue day	Bronze/Silver
9 May	Year 9 Bronze	Training Walk
14-17 May	Year 10	Bronze Assessment
10-13 July	Year 10	Silver Assessment
16-21 July	Year 12/Year13	Silver Assessment / Gold Practice
24-27 July	Year 11 leavers	Silver Assessment / Gold Practice
31 July	All kit/all levels return day	

Cashless catering

Please can I remind parents that they should ensure there are sufficient funds on their child's account if they wish them to purchase food in the Chill. Although students are advised each time they go through till if their account is running low, overdrafts are only allowed in exceptional circumstances and it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that there is enough money on their child's account to pay for the food that they choose to eat. We will never let a child go hungry, but it may be useful for you to set an alert (either text or email) to remind you when the account is running low:

1. Login to *ParentPay*
2. Click on the *Parents Get Started* box – then *Get Started*
3. Scroll down to [Find out how to activate your account here](#)
4. How to Set Alerts
5. Go to Communications
6. Go to Alert Settings
7. Select the type of Alert (low balance and/or new item) and select how you want to receive alerts, email and/or SMS Text.

Face Coverings

Recent government guidance suggests that face coverings are to be worn in schools until at least 17 May 2021. Please can we remind you again to provide **at least** two face coverings for your child so that they always have a spare should they lose or break one. We are still having several requests every day for face masks, but it is a parental responsibility to provide these rather than the school.

Home Lateral Flow Testing

Further test kits have been circulated to all students via their Form Tutors. Please could you encourage your son/daughter to continue testing twice a week, and to record the results of the tests. There are links on the front page of the school website at www.carres.uk to enable you to quickly and easily record the result, both for the school and the NHS.

And finally....a reminder that Carre's Grammar School is now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them at no extra cost to yourself.

These donations really mount up and would make a big difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. You can find our easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/carresgrammarschool/>

Yours faithfully

N M Law
Headteacher