

Dear Parent/Carer

Twelve months ago today we bade farewell to our Year 11 and Year 13 students, hoping that we might see them again, but we weren't certain and they never returned back to school in the academic year. The Prime Minister's Churchillian rhetoric remained just that as we were in the grip of a pandemic and entered into a lockdown. A year on we have learned a lot about ourselves and each other and I now believe we can move forward with some renewed hope and optimism to return to something bearing normality in the coming months, developing the best of what we have done differently, such as the online Parents' Evenings, and returning to the things that we know students have missed, such as the extracurricular activities.

The majority of students have had three Lateral Flow tests over the last two weeks, and we have had only one positive case which affected only a handful of students. All students been given their home tests, which we encourage them to use as we still have to be careful and work hard to remain safe. It is really important that results of tests are reported online straight away, even if the result is negative or void. This is easy to do at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Please also share your child's results with the school. The link for informing us of your result [can be accessed here](#) .

There is some chaos and confusion around the exam system, as there was last year, but as I have written to the students and parents of Year 11 and 13, we have a way forward in the town's schools and I have tried to offer reassurance. For the rest of the school it is business as usual, albeit with some modifications and measures, but everyone seems to have got quickly back into the routines and rhythms of school life and will be looking forward to a break in two weeks' time.

### **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.

**Email alerts are free of charge.** If you opt for SMS text alerts there is a small charge per text. For more information on setting alerts click [view our guide on how to set up email or text alerts](#).

Further information is available on the ParentPay website: <https://www.parentpay.com/parent-account-faqs/>

### **Poorly students**

Students who are unwell whilst in school should not be using their mobile phones to call home. If they are unwell, they should go to the main office where they will be assessed by trained First Aiders. Assistance will be provided as needed and, if necessary, the office staff will call parents if the child is too unwell to remain in school. Please could you remind your son/daughter of the correct procedure.

**And finally**....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/>

Thank you.

**N M Law**  
Headteacher