



From the Headmaster

This week, the Department for Education has published its white paper 'Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child'. The intention is to help "every child to fulfil their potential, by ensuring that they receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time". This intention rests on what it calls four pillars of delivery:

- an excellent teacher for every child
- high standards of curriculum, behaviour and attendance
- targeted support for every child who needs it
- a stronger and fairer school system

We are currently reviewing the paper and considering what it will mean for Sir Thomas Rich's in practice. You can read the full white paper here: ['Opportunity for all'](#).

There is no doubt that it is always important to be looking to the future, to continually seek to improve and do things differently if necessary. However, it is quite tough to focus on the future, when the current circumstances are still hugely challenging in school with a high number of teaching and support staff off work mostly suffering from COVID-19. You may have seen in the local press that some schools in the area are sending entire year groups home to study due to rising cases in staff. We have made the decision not to do this for the time being, but staff absence is placing high demands on those teaching staff who are in. Please do bear with us - we are committed to doing the very best for every pupil, but there may be a small delay in replying to non-urgent enquiries from parents as we deal with the high levels of absence and move into the busy public exam season. As ever, I appreciate your forbearance and patience in what continues to be an extremely difficult time for all schools.

We are not currently experiencing rising cases among pupils and to maintain this it is important for parents to follow the latest COVID-19 guidance from the DfE relevant to children and young people dated 31 March. This advises:

"Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

For children and young people with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days which is when they are most infectious. For adults the advice is five days."

We have so far enjoyed three fantastic performances of Abigail's Party from our talented A Level Drama students this week and I am looking forward to the final performance this evening. Well done to everyone who took part on stage or behind the scenes.

I know it has been difficult, if not impossible, for parents to visit the School over the last two years, and it has been lovely to see some of you in person this week.

I do hope to see more parents at our Spring Concert next Thursday, and after the Easter break at our Business Networking Event in May.

Spring Concert – Thursday 7 April 7.30pm, [book tickets](#).

Business Networking Event – Friday 13 May 9am, [book tickets](#).

I wish you all a pleasant and relaxing weekend – I am keeping my fingers crossed that those on The Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expeditions do not get too cold!

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

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