

Little Heath School

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Headteacher
D J Ramsden, BA, NPQH

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Dear all,

Where do we start? The word unprecedented seems overused in the current situation but it certainly has been a term unlike any other! I would like to thank and congratulate those of our students who have diligently followed the rules to keep themselves, their friends, their teachers and their families safe. We have all had to adapt to new ways of working; the introduction of Teams has enabled students, who have had to self-isolate, to continue to access their education and interact with their teacher. All students have access to a team for each of their classes, their tutor group and their year group – all updates and announcements are posted to these to enable continuity. I have been really impressed at how our students and staff have adapted to blended learning and hope they feel their learning has benefited.

Our Year 12 students started their sixth form journey in September, keen to return to some normality. They have settled into their new timetables and the sixth form environment really well. Twenty students successfully applied to be part of the prefect team and have already started their responsibilities with meetings and supporting with the Christmas cards and newsletter that we sent to members of our community in place of the traditional Christmas Party.

Year 13 students have been working incredibly hard to complete their UCAS forms, applying to university, apprenticeships and exploring other opportunities after sixth form. We are proud that many of our students have already received offers; interviews for courses are already underway and our students, who have been interviewed remotely by Oxford University, adapted tremendously well to the demands of an online interview. Congratulations to all students for the offers they are receiving.

In January some students will have the first of their real exams for some of their courses and all students will have PPEs for their other subjects. I would encourage students to utilise the revision materials on Teams and wish them all good luck for January.

The sixth form team pulled together to create a fantastic online event for our Sixth Form Open Evening which consisted of subject videos; our students created a very moving video explaining the highlights of sixth form; other students wrote subject reviews and Mr Jessop, Mr Ramsden and myself hosted a live Q&A event for prospective families. It was definitely a team event and we are all incredibly proud of how everyone worked together.

Our Year 13 Student Leadership Team started the year by taking part in a conference held by West Berkshire where they presented their views about mental health and wellbeing support in schools and how Coronavirus had affected students' experiences of

education. We regularly meet as a team to review current practices and initiatives in the sixth form and are looking to launch new ideas from January.

On a personal note, it has been a hugely rewarding first term back at Little Heath. Staff, students and families have been incredibly supportive and welcoming and I feel very proud to be Head of such a fantastic Sixth Form. I hope you are all able to have a restful and enjoyable Christmas, even if on a slightly smaller scale than you are used to! Look after yourselves and each other and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Chaventré', written over a thin horizontal line.

Mrs S Chaventré
Assistant Headteacher in charge of Key Stage 5