

PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your unstinting support of the School during this past term and for all your help in the herculean effort to keep everyone safe and well. It was very upsetting to have to ask so many to self-isolate last week – just as the “finishing post” was in sight, but I remain pleased to have been able to deliver the best part of a full term’s work for our young people.

ISI Inspection

You may be aware (if your children were involved) that we received an unannounced visit from inspectors on the first day back after half term. This was an additional inspection and will not change the main schedule for visits in the future. The focus of this particular visit was to scrutinize our safeguarding and the safeguarding of boarders; the recruitment of staff, supply staff and proprietors; the provision of information; the handling of

complaints and leadership and management.

We have now received the final version of the “Advice Note” (as such reports are called) and I am pleased to inform you that we were judged to be **compliant in all areas** and there are **no action points** resulting from this visit. There is no better “stress-test” for our safeguarding measures than an unannounced inspection and it is gratifying to know that

all is as it should be and that safeguarding remains at the heart of what we do. At the current time, and for reasons I don’t really understand, we are not allowed to publish the actual report but we are permitted to share the outcomes with members of the school community. I hope to change this and if we gain permission to share the report more widely, I will do so.

Mock Exams for Years 11 & 13

On their return to school in January, Years 13, 11 and those taking AS levels in Sciences will have a week of mock examinations. Although the Government is very clear that public examinations will go ahead in the summer and has put additional supportive measures in place to try to mitigate the disadvantages faced by so many students as

a result of school closures and requirements to isolate, we think it best to be prepared for all eventualities. We are, therefore, advising students to take their mock exams seriously and prepare thoroughly: not only is this good practice in that a practice exam is a more useful experience if students have prepared, but we are mindful

that mock results could conceivably be considered a source of evidence in case of exam cancellation. Please support and encourage your sons and daughters through their preparation by ensuring they follow their revision timetables and make time for study, practice, rest, relaxation and festive fun.

END OF YEAR ASSEMBLY: Friday 12.15pm

I would like to invite you to join us for a short, 15 minute online Christmas assembly marking the end of term. Students who are in school will watch this from boarding houses and the CP Hall and we would like to

encourage all members of the School community to join us. We hope all Sunley students and those also isolating will also tune in. The event can be accessed using the following link and will be available for a

short time afterwards.

[End of Year Assembly](#)



It really has been an extraordinary term and much has been achieved despite the obvious challenges and restrictions. For that, I am indebted to our staff and students for their cooperation and greatly look forward to the new term.

On behalf of the whole school, I would like to wish you a safe, happy and healthy Christmas break.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Paul Bambrough'.

Paul Bambrough
Principal

