

22nd March 2021



Dear Parent / Carer

I would like to continue a theme with my letters of late, of thanking you for your unwavering support of The Garibaldi School over this past term. Welcoming the students back over the last two weeks, really has been a highlight of the year so far.

Reflecting on this term and what we have achieved has been nothing short of amazing. This includes our response to the pandemic and lockdown, the setup of the testing facility and responding to a major ICT issue. When I say we or our, I talk about the whole Garibaldi Community working together for our young people. Thank you!

Unfortunately, a couple of parents' evenings have fallen victim to our ICT issues over the past couple of weeks. It is anticipated that these will be rescheduled to:

Year 10/12 Thursday 13th May 2021

Year 8 Tuesday 25th May 2021

These will be confirmed with further details nearer to the time.

We have been sympathetic to issues faced with uniform, equipment and the re-onboarding process and have not, thus far, followed the pattern of other schools which I am sure you have seen in the media, who have isolated students or sent students home as a result of incorrect uniform, for example.

It will be expected that after the Easter holidays, all students will resume their usual high standards of uniform, attendance, punctuality and preparedness for school and we will challenge this where standards fall short. Details of expectations can be found on our website and are unchanged from when we returned in September. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

All students should now be attending full time. There may be times where students may be in contact with a confirmed case in school and therefore have to isolate. We have a dedicated member of staff who will now support a continued provision online with students if this is the case. We do still operate a bubble system and encourage social distancing where possible.

If, for any reason you wish to discuss a specific case of non-attendance or we can work with you to ensure full attendance of your child/ren, please get in touch with Miss Hill on the school telephone number, who can provide further help and support on this issue.

It is important that students arrive on time to school as lessons begin immediately as students come into school.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12/13
Start time	8:35	8:40	8:40	8:35	8:35	8:35
Finish time	2:50	2:55	3:00	3:00	3:50	3:00
Friday Finish Time	1:35	1:40	1:45	1:40	1:45	1:45

Specific information will be sent to parents and students of Year 11 and 13 parents about how we will continue to deliver our curriculum and support them to maximise their achievement in their final full half term. It is really important that students still attend and make the absolute most of all lessons and out of lesson tasks that is requested of them.

From Monday 12th April, it is hoped that the usual break and lunch service can resume and our range of food choices will be available to all students. Initially, students will be issued a new PIN number during mentor time whilst we set up the biometrics module for use later in the half term. Parents can top up students' lunch accounts using the same portal as previously used:

<https://www.scopay.com/garibaldi> and paying by card.

Most students have now undertaken their three lateral flow tests in school and we have issued home testing kits where this is the case. If I could politely remind parents that students should undertake a test on a Wednesday and Sunday evening and report the results through to NHS Test and Trace (details in associated booklet issued with the tests) and to the school:

https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk/forms/testing_result.php). This should also continue through the Easter Holidays.

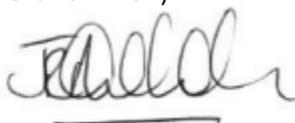
Finally, to support the Comic Relief fundraising effort, we will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 26th March 2021. We are asking students for a £1 donation which will be collected on the gate.

School closes at 1:45pm on Friday 26th March 2021 and re-opens on Monday 12th April at the time listed in the above table.

I would like to wish you and your families a happy and restful Easter and look forward to working with you in the Summer Term.

Best wishes for now,

Yours faithfully



Mr James Aldred
Head of School