



29th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of the Spring Term, I would like to provide you with some updates in readiness for the final term of this academic year.

Firstly, I am really proud of how students have settled into the first term since COVID restrictions have been lifted. Attitudes to learning have been exemplary and I have been fortunate to see some excellent work and contributions by the students, both in and out of lessons.

COVID has caused many societal changes and has impacted people differently. For some young people, some of these changes have been difficult to absorb. We have really focused on student mental health and wellbeing and supporting students to get back into the rhythm of school life.

There have been many opportunities for recognising student success this term including, but not limited to appearances on The Hall of Fame, awards assemblies, fast passes, invitations to special in school events, pizza parties and the coveted pin badges. We will be issuing newly redesigned conduct cards to all students to give more space for recognising positive achievements and contributions to school life. Hopefully, restrictions will continue to be lifted and we be able to hold our annual awards ceremony at The John Fretwell Centre later in the year.

As you know, students at The Garibaldi School achieve well. Our results have been in the top 10% of achievement and progress nationally. This comes from having high standards, expectations, really engaging teaching and support from all stakeholders.

I am looking forward to welcoming Year 11 parents into school on Thursday 31st March for our year 11 information evening. Following this, it is my expectation that the upcoming Year 7 and 8 Parents evenings will be held in person, in school. I am also looking to hold a "meet the Leadership Team" evening after Easter as an open invitation to come in to school and have a tea or coffee (and biscuits) and chat with members of the senior leadership team. I will be actively exploring ways to open up Garibaldi again and involve parents in the life of the school. Further details on these events will follow in due course.

There are a few changes that will be made to standards and expectations into next term which I welcome your support with. Whilst I appreciate some of these aspects could be quite emotive, I do want to assure you that these changes ensure consistency, an effective running of the school and ensure that our focus is on student development and achievement.

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Mobile Phones and Head Phones

Upon return after the Easter holidays, phones & head phones are to be unseen and unheard in school. If students bring phones into school they are to be switched off and in school bags until they have left site at the end of the day. Any student found to be using phones at any point during the school day will have their phone confiscated and will need to be collected by a named adult contact, from reception after 3:10pm Monday – Thursday and 1:55pm on a Friday. This will have no impact on the vast majority of students who follow this rule.

Phones are an unwelcome distraction for a multitude of reasons. Should a student wish to contact home, there is a facility to do so at student services. Should a parent wish to contact their child, this can be done via main reception.

We will no longer take responsibility for looking after mobile phones during examinations. Students should not bring phones into school on these days.

Uniform

Thank you so much for efforts over the past couple of weeks in ensuring students arrive to school in full uniform. I welcome your continued support with this and direct you to the uniform page on our website which details what uniform expectations are. We will be checking uniform each day after the Easter holidays and contacting home where necessary. We have a supply of loan uniform in school which is available to support students. For students entitled to free school meals, some financial assistance may be available to support with purchasing uniform. Please contact Miss Roberts, Head Teachers PA if you require further information on this.

Toilets

We have started an extensive renovation project on our toilet facilities with a number of blocks across the school completed. This project will be ongoing until December 2022 where we hope to have upgraded and renovated all toilet blocks across the site.

Toilets are accessible to students all day every day. Students have a morning break and lunchtime, whereby, like staff, students are encouraged to use this time to visit the toilet if required.

During lesson time we are trying to minimise the number of students who leave a lesson to use the toilet. This is to maximise time in lessons and minimise any disruption. Any student who has a medical condition and therefore must frequent the toilet regularly will be allowed to go. If you have medical evidence in support of your child making frequent visits please forward this to your child's mentor so all staff can be made aware. For these students, discreet use of a toilet pass will be arranged.

Finally, please find below an amended lunch and break rota for after the holidays. This is to allow for GCSE and A level exams to commence in line with national timings. Best of luck to all students about to sit exams.

Monday to Thursday

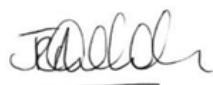
	Current Break	Current Lunch	Post Easter	Post Easter
Year 7	10.45am	12.40pm	10.45am	12.40pm
Year 8	9.55am	11.50am	9.55am	11.50am
Year 9	10.45am	12.40pm	10.45am	12.40pm
Year 10	9.55am	11.50am	10:45am	12:40pm
Year 11	10.45am	12.40pm	9:55am	11:50am
Year 12	10.45am	12.40pm	10.45am	12.40pm
Year 13	10.45am	12.40pm	10.45am	12.40pm

Friday

	Current Break	Current Lunch	Post Easter	Post Easter
Year 7	10.20am	12.15pm	10.20am	12.15pm
Year 8	9.30am	11.25am	9.30am	11.25am
Year 9	10.20am	12.15pm	10.20am	12.15pm
Year 10	9.30am	11.25am	10:20am	12:15pm
Year 11	10.20am	12.15pm	9:30am	11:25am
Year 12	10.20am	12.15pm	10.20am	12.15pm
Year 13	10.20am	12.15pm	10.20am	12.15pm

Again, thank you for your anticipated support in this and I look forward to welcoming you back into school over the coming weeks and months ahead. Have a great Easter Break.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Aldred
Head Teacher