

10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear students, parents and carers,

Firstly, thank you to everyone who tested for COVID-19 last week; testing on site revealed some positive cases and therefore helped slow transmission in the community. Thank you to the volunteers who have helped us deliver over 1,000 tests in 4 days- without their help the task would have been even more of a challenge!

Good luck to both year 10 and year 13 with their mock exams this week; these mocks provide an important opportunity for students to prepare for their final exams and to provide teachers with data on how students are performing in their subjects.

### **Teacher absence due to COVID-19:**

As I am sure you have read in the press, teacher shortages due to COVID-19 have increased nationally. Here at college, we try to avoid using supply agencies to cover absent teachers and to date, have managed reasonably well. That said, it would be helpful if any trained teachers in our community who would consider supply work contact us directly.

If you are a trained secondary teacher, please email [CPenny@fromecollege.org](mailto:CPenny@fromecollege.org) for an informal chat in the first instance. Naturally a full DBS will be required.

### **Face Coverings:**

Face coverings now need to be worn by all students (unless exempt) inside all buildings, classrooms and all communal areas (unless eating). During exams, once all students are seated, face coverings may be removed if students wish to do so.

We are concerned at the level of wastage of disposable face coverings and therefore students are asked to provide their own, reusable face covering, to wear in college. Student services will provide face coverings if people have forgotten their own, however we will ask for a charitable donation should students ask multiple times in a day. This is to reduce waste, protect our environment and encourage personal responsibility.

A reminder that students should continue to test at home with a LFD, every 3-5 days. We would recommend Sunday and Wednesday as a routine.

### **Year 11 Parents' Evening**

A reminder that Year 11 Parents' Evening is virtual and runs on Wednesday and Thursday this week. This is an essential opportunity to discuss progress, raise concerns, explore areas for improvement and discuss any necessary intervention. The next few months are critical for our students in terms of revision, attendance and support from parents, encouragement and praise. Please email the relevant Head of House if you are unable to attend the virtual Parents' Evening.



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## Homework

We would like to clarify our expectations around homework. This is work set outside of lesson time and is crucial in embedding independent study skills that students will need in preparing for assessments and their exams.

- Year 9 should receive approximately 30 minutes per subject per week
- Year 10 45 minutes per subject per week
- Year 11 1 hour per subject per week
- Post 16 students should expect to complete at least 4 hours of additional work per week per subject studied

If you have a query about homework in a particular subject, you should contact the subject teacher.

## GCSE pod

GCSEpod is a fantastic revision tool for students to use at home and on their phones. Every student has been provided with an account that they can use. GCSEpod provides students with podcasts that they can listen to. The podcasts are current and up to date with GCSE content in a wide range of subjects. They can also test their knowledge through completing tasks such as the check and challenge quizzes. To support students and parents with advice on revising and using GCSEpod, the company are offering webinars on the following dates:

- 12th and 26th January at 5pm - for parents - An introduction to GCSEpod and how to support your child through GCSEs
- 18th and 19th January - for students - Effective techniques to succeed with GCSEpod
- To book your webinar slot please go to [gcsepod.com/gcsepod-webinars/](http://gcsepod.com/gcsepod-webinars/)

For any questions or further advice about GCSEpod, please email [cgale@fromecollege.org](mailto:cgale@fromecollege.org)

## Achievement at Frome College

We are excited that we are now able to share your child's achievement record with you on FROG. To access this, go to the Parent Dashboard>My Child>Positive Behaviour Summary.



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## Building Resilience in Children and Teens

We want to share with you an excellent resource for parents/carers. The Family Lives charity aims to offer all parents somewhere to turn before they reach crisis point. Crisis support, provided for over 40 years through their helpline, has always been at the heart of what they do. Family Lives also have an excellent website to help parents with the ups and downs of family life. One useful infographic is this one about building resilience in children and teens. You can download it here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/wellbeing/building-resilience-in-children-and-teens/>

The Family Lives parents' helpline is available Monday to Friday, 1.30 - 9pm on 0808 800 2222. The website can be found here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

Best wishes, thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "ER" with a flourish.

Emma Reynolds  
Principal

