





Potteries Educational Trust Head Office City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College Leek Road Stoke-on-Trent Educational Staffordshire ST4 2RU Chief Executive Officer. Mark Kent

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Headteacher. Mrs E C Robinson BA(Hons)

23rd April 2021

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our students back into school following the Easter break. I hope that you were all able to enjoy some of the sunshine that last week had to offer and that our students had some well-earned rest before we begin our final term of the academic year.

The summer term is going to be one of hard work and assessment for all of our students. Years 11 and 13 are entering their final half-term and will be working hard to generate evidence for their Teacher Assessed Grades. Exam board assessments for Years 11 and 13 will run from Tuesday 4th May to Friday 14th May. A copy of the Year 11 and Year 13 exam board assessment timetable is attached. An overview of the evidence for each subject, including topics for the exam board assessment if the subject is holding one, is attached for Y11.

For Years 10 and 12 there will be examinations after May half-term, running from Monday 7th to Friday 18th June. These examinations will help us to see where students may require additional support with their learning and will help to inform our planning for September. These examinations will be particularly significant for our Year 12 students as they will help to determine progress into Year 13, assist in applications for university or inform post-18 choices. I would ask that you strongly encourage and support your child in adequately preparing for these examinations through revision at home. Year 9 will undergo subject assessments during their lessons, and these will run throughout June.

Last half-term the staff and some students worked together to create a new Vision, Values and Mission statement for the school. Please find it attached to this letter. I hope that you feel that it fully reflects what you would like to see from the school but if you have any feedback it would be greatly appreciated. You can email office@biddulphhigh.co.uk

This term we will be looking to the future and planning for school improvement for the next three years. My aim is to have the highest quality provision for our town, with excellent outcomes and an outstanding reputation. We will need to work together to achieve this so I will be looking forward to sharing our ideas with you and seeking your thoughts as we move forward. The school is being supported by the Potteries Educational Trust and a National Leader for Education.

I would also like to ask for your support in talking to your children about their conduct when travelling to and from school. I have received some phone calls from the community about a small number of students showing a lack of consideration to others, by walking in larger groups and blocking the footpath. Our school sits at the heart of our community and I want our young people to be seen as the considerate and respectful people we know them to be.











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We have been contacted by the Department for Education this week and we can anticipate some changes to our restrictions in school over the coming weeks. These are all dependent on the data that government collects regarding Covid cases and hospitalisation. I will always seek to update you as quickly as possible if changes are made. Please remember to continue to test at home as this is really helping to minimise disruption and spread of the disease.

In light of the road map to ease out of Covid restrictions, we would now ask that all borrowed laptops be returned to school by Friday 30th April. This is necessary to provide IT support and capacity within school. Laptops should be returned to Reception.

The school is also working hard with our young people to support their mental health and wellbeing. I have stated in a previous letter that some of the press coverage around a 'catastrophic loss of learning' is unfounded at Biddulph High School. Students can be assured that we will continue to do everything needed to enable them to achieve the best possible outcomes here at school. For some this will mean additional support, but it will not mean a radical change to the way that we do things. Our priority is for students to re-adjust to life as we come out of Covid restrictions in a supported and measured way. We know that some of our students and their families have struggled and we are here to help in whatever way we can. If you are concerned about your child, please let us know by contacting your child's Progress Tutor or Head of Year. Young people can access a range of services through the school and we have attached contact numbers that you or your child can use to seek help at the bottom of this letter.

We continue to maintain the highest standards of safety and hygiene in school and we have recently been commended by Environmental Health for the measures we have taken. Our full risk assessment and guidelines are available on our school website: <u>https://biddulphhigh.co.uk/information-on-covid-19/</u>

Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01782 523977 or email <u>office@biddulphhigh.co.uk</u>

Yours faithfully,

E Robinson Headteacher

If you need help and support, you can contact:

Childline:

• Call free on 0800 1111

YoungMinds:

- Parents Helpline: call free on 0808 802 5544
- If you are a young person experiencing a mental health crisis, you can text the YoungMinds Crisis Messenger for free, 24/7 support. Text YM to <u>85258</u>.

Samaritans:

• Call free on 116 123











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