



3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

This term has been a challenging one! We had damage to the site following Storm Dennis followed by the Covid-19 lockdown. Faced with unprecedented times our students, staff and wider community have shown commitment, bravery and resilience over recent weeks. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students left school suddenly and in a state of uncertainty but they were all, without question, a credit to themselves and the school. We are committed to acknowledging them properly and ensuring that they have a fitting send off when we have greater clarity about the exam results and the social distancing rules have been relaxed.

I would however like to concentrate on the many positives and successes that our amazing students have achieved this term!

Ms Chaudhry, Mrs Thompson and Miss Anderson continued their enrichment work within the community primary schools and many local children have been mentored by our 6th Form students in Computer Programming, Literacy and Sport. In addition the 6th Form raised £425 for Dementia UK by selling an incredible array of cakes, many of which were homemade!

The school production of Beauty and The Beast was another hugely successful showcase of our student talent. It was lovely to see a number of younger students take leading roles and huge thanks must go to all involved, especially Mrs Lane and Mrs Osbourne Lewis. We were delighted that over 100 students from Lowbrook and Larchfield Primary Schools were able to join us for a matinee performance!

There is one particular student who really must be acknowledged for her numerous extra-curricular successes this term: Abbie Jones in Year 13 qualified for and competed at the ESAA National Cross Country Championships held in Liverpool in March. Abbie also ran for Berkshire in the Intercounties competition in Loughborough and won Get Berks Active "Volunteer of the Year". She was also the first of Mr Morris's Duke of Edinburgh students to achieve the Gold Award. Abbie encapsulates so many of the values of PRIDE and we will miss her greatly at Cox Green School.

Zoe Flitton continued her success in winter sports and competed in Sheffield at the Steel City Trophy ice skating competition as well as the English Alpine Championships placing 8th in the slalom and Harvey Duncan Smith was the youngest attendee at an overseas Karate school in half term, which led to the honourable task of leading a bowing ceremony. We have a number of students who have been excelling in Rugby, Football and Athletics and I look forward to sharing their successes when training resumes! Do make the most of any outdoor space and spare time you have to try and do some form of exercise – it really will help you pass the time and stay positive.

Ms Thomas led a series of assemblies early on in the term about kindness which had a huge impact on the school community. All term, staff and students have been enjoying daily acts of kindness which has been truly wonderful to be part of: beautiful notes of thanks, flowers and little treats left around the school. My favourite was a lovely card left in a bush wishing the finder a happy day! I am sure this "be kind" mentality will continue as our community pull together.

Miss Winchcombe appeared on “Beat The Teacher” on Heart FM, the questions were tough and she definitely would have won if it had been science based questions rather than Sponge Bob!

The local community has created a “Cox Green SOS” online community on Facebook which I would urge you to take a look at should you wish to offer your support or need any support when isolating. I must also acknowledge our incredible team of staff who have been nothing short of incredible in their efforts at keeping the school up and running.

We say a very sad farewell to Mr Burrows, who has truly been an outstanding Head of History over the past four years. I am delighted that Mrs Clark will be taking over as the new Head of Department. Mrs Gibbons will take over as the new Head of 6th Form after Easter and Mr Mitchell and Ms Brown will share the Head of Year 10 role between them. Ms Durling, Ms Torres-Gomirez and Ms Williams all leave us for pastures new and we wish them all well.

We will of course stay in touch with regular emails, social media posts and texts.

Please do stay safe and please ensure you follow the social distancing and isolation rules.

We look forward to seeing you as soon as we are able.

With kind regards

Frances Walsh
Head Teacher