



26 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know, we welcomed Ofsted's Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMIs) into school on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 March, for a pilot inspection. Although no grade was given, the whole process was overwhelmingly positive and gave HMIs the opportunity to see the school in action under the current COVID restrictions.

Despite the challenges schools are facing, HMIs were able to see some exemplary practice. They commented on personal development being 'stand out' and felt there was an unwavering desire from staff to reintroduce the enrichment offer that has been significantly reduced due to COVID. HMIs also said that the students' behaviour was exemplary.

I would like to thank you for completing the Parent View survey; the feedback from you is invaluable. We had a high level of responses (316): 96% of you felt your child was safe at school and 95% would recommend the school to others.

The school received very positive feedback from HMIs and to have this during the COVID pandemic is exceptional. The Ofsted Inspection Framework is highly challenging (rightly so) and for the school to be recognised for the quality of education it provides is testament to the students, the hard work of staff and your support as parents.

'Not at our school'

We have launched our campaign 'Not at Our School' (#notatourschool). This started last week with assemblies focusing on celebrating difference, understanding what acceptable behaviour is school and the community and the importance of kindness and empathy. This will be followed up in PSHE and Form time, with sessions talking about bullying, respect, diversity and consent. To be kind we need empathy, therefore, I believe we need to explicitly teach an understanding of empathy. We will not tolerate poor behaviour towards each other and 'banter' in any form.

Home COVID Testing for students

We anticipate the home testing to continue during May. Once you have completed your test, you must report the results to NHS: www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result as well as via the follow Microsoft Form [Lateral Flow Home Test - Students \(office.com\)](https://forms.office.com/r/...). Please can I remind you to follow the normal procedures of self-isolation if you or your child tests positive.

Uniform consultation

Thank you to those who replied to the uniform consultation. Views of parents/carers and your children will be considered when the uniform policy is reviewed by governors. I will

write to you again with any changes to the policy in good time to purchase any new items for September 2021. I would also like to thank you for your support to ensure your child is in the correct uniform. As you know we value a smart appearance and feel it further fosters that sense of belonging to The Castle School.

Enrichment days

We are currently planning to go ahead with the enrichment days in June. Of course, this is subject to change if the COVID restrictions are not lifted from 21 June. As we did not have the enrichment days in January, there will be three enrichment days on Monday 21 June, Tuesday 22 June and Wednesday 23 June. Details will follow soon from Mr Thompson.

Show My Homework

I am aware that the use of Teams for setting homework is proving to be a challenge in terms of your child easily being able to track the dates homework is set and monitor hand-in deadlines. I also know parents/carers have found it difficult to monitor their children's homework. In response to this feedback, we are planning to reinstate Show My Homework and will inform you and the students when it is back online. It is likely all homework will be scheduled through Show My Homework but the resources and assignments will be via links to Teams.

We are looking forward to the prospect of Covid restrictions easing from 21 June, if the Government's roadmap is successful, when we can start to increase the amount of enrichment and ease some of the protective measures in school. We have yet to be notified what protective measures will continue to be in place from this date and will notify you when we know more.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr Lamb
Headteacher

Key Dates

3 May	Bank Holiday
31 May – 6 June	Half Term
21-23 June	Enrichment Days
24-25 June	Inset Days