

<p>Message from Mr Brown, Interim Principal</p>	<p>Dear parents and carers,</p> <p>I am delighted and honoured to have been entrusted with the responsibility of leading Cottenham Village College as Interim Principal from Easter 2021 for the summer term. Having worked at the school for 25 years as a history teacher, and as a senior leader for the past 8 years, Cottenham Village College is a school I am very proud to work in and one that is served by a highly supportive community of pupils, parents and staff.</p> <p>In my previous roles at Cottenham, I have led on the curriculum and teaching and learning development, and I know from working with our fantastic staff that these are areas of strength for the college. I am now looking forward to working with the pupils and parents, as well as the wider community, to collaborate in ways that best supports the pupils’ ongoing progress and well-being.</p> <p>As Interim Principal, I will not be looking to make significant changes this term, but rather to ensure that what we already do works as well as possible. For all year groups, the simple message I have relayed in my assembly this week is to continue to “work hard and be nice”. We know we have wonderful pupils at the college, who thrive when they feel happy and safe. We look forward to seeing them back in classrooms, hopefully without any further disruption due to lockdowns.</p> <p>From my experience, I know Cottenham Village College to be a friendly, positive and exciting place to work and to learn and we take great pride in the high standards our pupils consistently achieve. Pupils leave as happy, well-qualified and well-motivated individuals who go on to excel in local sixth forms, colleges, universities and the wider world. I look forward to working with you all this term to ensure the continued success of the college.</p>
<p>Covid-19 Safety in school</p>	<p>Thank you for your ongoing support with ensuring that pupils follow the safety protocols in school to help stop the spread of the virus. As a result of pupils’ excellent attitudes and efforts towards these expectations, we have seen no evidence of transmission in school.</p> <p>We continue to adopt key expectations for HANDS, FACE, SPACE and TESTING in line with government guidance for schools. This means that pupils should continue to follow rules regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HANDS – wash hands regularly and use the hand sanitiser around school. • FACE – pupils are required to wear masks as they move around the school site and in classroom lessons – this is a directive from the government and will be reviewed on 17 May. • SPACE – pupils should continue to try and maintain 2m distance from pupils from other year groups by using their zone in school at all times. • TESTING – pupils should self-test at home twice a week using the test kits provided by the college.
<p>Summer term and open spaces</p>	<p>As we move into the summer term, and the weather improves, we will be opening up more of the open spaces for pupils to use at lunchtimes, particularly the school field. However, since there are times when PE lessons coincide with lunch breaks, and we wish to maintain year-group bubbles, we will be designating specific areas of the field for use by each year group. Full details will be shared with pupils next week, but we have already opening the field to a limited extent so that pupils are able to enjoy more freedom and use the open spaces when the weather permits.</p>

Uniform	<p>We would like to thank parents for keeping us updated with regards to any issues with uniform, and for ensuring that students are dressed in the very smart CVC uniform, of which we take immense pride.</p> <p>We are aware that being able to replace pieces of uniform has not been easy due to the shops not being open, and due to the financial situation that many of us find ourselves in during such times.</p> <p>Our main request is that, if your son/daughter is coming into school in items of uniform that are not in line with the uniform policy, then you provide a written note for them so that we can issue them with a temporary uniform card. In the note, a time frame of when these items of uniform will be replaced, should be provided and, if we do need to support in any way to ensure that all students are fully equipped for school, please do not hesitate to contact us.</p> <p>May we remind you that hoodies are <i>not</i> permitted as part of either the standard uniform, or the CVC PE kit and trainer-like shoes with visible branding are also not permitted.</p>
Laptop Returns	<p>Please can we ask that any laptops on loan from the college are now returned for redistribution. Laptops can be returned to the college reception between 8AM and 4PM on any school day.</p>
Conference Day	<p>Friday 16 April is our next Conference Day where we deliver important elements of the PSHE and RSE curriculum. For this Conference Day we have analysed the gaps that have arisen in our PSHE curriculum due to lockdown and our pastoral teams have been working hard to create some customised sessions across a range of topics to support our pupils' personal development. This means that there is not one single theme that unites the Conference Day this time because the content has been tailored to meet the needs of each year group on their return to school. This will include age-appropriate coverage of the statutory Relationships and Sex Education Framework for Years 8-11. The approach to Conference Days means that we revisit several central concepts within the PSHE curriculum, for example how to make and keep healthy friendships and relationships. We also try to encourage discussion of these themes and to provide space to ask questions. Please do take the time to ask your son/daughter about what they covered on Conference Day to help them to reflect on their learning.</p>