



ISLAND LEARNING CENTRE

Route to Success

**Be Ready**

**Be Respectful**

**Be Safe**



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are keeping well and managing to stay warm during this very cold spell. Whilst some of the mornings have been beautiful to look at, I have been surprised at just how many layers I have needed to be able to venture outdoors.

I have been very pleased, that despite continuing in lockdown since the start of the year, the number of students in Centre has continued to increase. Students have been focussed and working well.

Whilst there is still room for improvement from a few students who are starting to fall behind due to doing very little work, it has been lovely to observe the increased engagement with online work staff have set for those students who are working from home. Please do continue to impress on students how important it is for them, particularly those in Year 11, to put in a good effort now, so that they are at the level in each subject by Easter that will enable them to achieve their end of year target grades.

### **CORONAVIRUS : Helping Stop Transmission**

Whilst the **national lockdown** goes on, students must continue to observe the NHS advice on hand and respiratory hygiene, wearing masks in corridors and maintaining social distancing. Additionally any instruction given by a teacher regarding stopping any behaviour that is not covid-safe needs to be followed immediately. Students have complied well with these rules for most of the time, but this needs to be adhered to all of the time please.



### **Lateral Flow Tests and New Saliva Test Trial**

You will be aware that since the start of this term we have been able to offer students returning to Centre a test (lateral flow test) to check that they are covid-free. This test has involved students swabbing their throat and nose and gives a result in 30 minutes. It is not the most pleasant of tests and well done to those students have taken it.

I am very pleased to say that along with some other island schools we have been asked to be part of a trial that has developed a less intrusive way of testing whether someone has the coronavirus. Southampton University who are leading the study have designed a test that requires just a saliva sample. More details about this are in the letter at the end of this newsletter.

### **Dates for your diary**

Half term holiday  
Easter Holiday  
Development day  
(school closed for students)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April





As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help. Tips, advice, guides and resources for children of different ages are available from the UK Safer Internet Centre by visiting [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

## Mental Health and Well-being

Let's hope the weather stays good over the half term break so that we can get some fresh air and start to enjoy spotting some of the early signs of spring.

However, there are still things we can do indoors. A guide from The Scouts for 100 indoor activities, including strategies to support with mental health and wellbeing can be accessed at [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)



**Our uniform** is white polo top or shirt; black trousers or skirt; black sweatshirt or jumper and black shoes or trainers. All clothing should be plain and without logos. Hoodies are **not** uniform and will need to be left in lockers if brought to school.

We are always happy for students to borrow a sweatshirt and to take it home. In those circumstances, we do expect children to look after it and to wear it each day. This has not always been happening with a few children having to be loaned another sweatshirt when they have turned up without the first. If you have **any sweatshirts at home** that are not being used **PLEASE** return them to the Centre.

Sweatshirts are available to buy for £6. That amount will be charged for any sweatshirts that are borrowed and not returned at the end of the day when students' lockers are opened.

## LUNCHES



Parents/carers are reminded that students are able to order a lunch each day. Currently in addition to the sandwiches, baguettes and fruit that are available every day, if students want warm food, this can be provided in the form of toasties, beans and sausage rolls.

## Attendance and Absence

The procedure to report a student absence is to call the Centre on 300333 and leave a message with the receptionist. If the call is before 8.30 am there is an answerphone to leave your message.

Can I remind parents and carers that the Centre is open from 8.45am and that all students should be **in their tutor groups by 9am**. Please be aware that unless we are informed by you of an expected lateness, students arriving more than five minutes after their expected time will be given a late mark (L) with those arriving more than fifteen (U) which is an unauthorised late. Repeated 'U' marks will be followed by a referral to the Education and Inclusion Service, which may lead to the issuing of a penalty notice.

Please contact our Family Liaison Officer, Jo Winson, on 01983 300333 if you need any support with this.