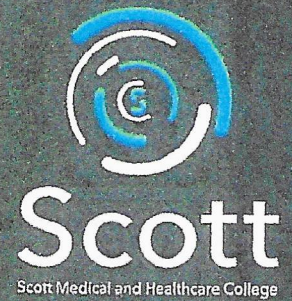


Friday 11th June 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term and were able to take advantage of the amazing weather. Unfortunately the weather has taken a turn for the worse but this has not dampened our students spirits. This has been most noticeable during lunch and break where, supported by students not using their mobile phones, they have been having lively chats, playing card games and generally communicating on a level that we had not seen before. I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your support with this and for the many emails of support that we received from you.

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I've been taking some of our new Year 9 parents on tours of the school, and as usual, it's been brilliant to see students working hard in every year group. They have been enthusiastic in their praise of our students' positivity and fantastic behaviour. This includes our KS5 students who have been working hard in the Scott Suite during their study periods.

Caring to Learn -
Learning to Care

As I have previously mentioned, our staff never rest on their laurels and we are always looking to hone our craft. This week Mr Cresswell led our 'Better Practice Briefing' on live marking techniques and feedback. Feedback is an important part of the teaching and learning process. It has a significant effect on student learning and has been described as "the most powerful single moderator that enhances achievement" (Hattie, 1999) I have enjoyed dropping into lessons and seeing our staff giving students excellent focused feedback and our students acting upon it.

Our Year 10 and 12 students are now in the process of preparing for their Mock exams which begin on Monday 28th June and run for one week. It is extremely important that students revise hard for this exam series and give themselves the best chance of securing great outcomes. Whilst we fully expect exams to go ahead next year, we will be collecting evidence over the course of the year if things take a different turn. It is therefore imperative that all students show the best side of them. The exams will be using previous GCSE and A Level questions.

We have been working hard in school to ensure that all students know how to revise. If your child is in Year 10 or 12, you will hopefully find that they are busy creating revision flip cards, watching revision videos, completing their Tassomai daily goals or using other revision techniques. Teachers have let the students know which topics they will need to revise in a document called a Personal Learning Checklist (PLC) - All the information and resources they need will be on their Google Classrooms.

On Tuesday this week we were fortunate to be able to invite Mr Frederick Naftel to speak to our students on the history of Anti-Semitism. Mr. Naftel is from a family of Holocaust survivors and was able to give a fascinating and informative talk on the origins, rise and sadly ever present reality of anti-Semitism in the UK and its wider European Context. He discussed the creation of the Nation state of Israel as well as linking the Nazi holocaust to events in other parts of the world. Students received Mr Naftel well and had many pertinent and relevant questions about a topic that sadly still exists in today's multicultural society. My thanks go to Mr Simpson for organising this interesting and informative event for our students.

Finally I have been extremely proud of the year 11 students that have been taking part in the Greenshaw Learning Trust tutoring program. The feedback I have received identified our students as being confident, asking pertinent questions and providing in depth answers as well as being exceptionally bright. We look forward to them returning to our 6th form in September.

Yours faithfully

Ms Leech

Headteacher.