

Friday 21st May

Dear Parents,

I am writing with a second update this week to share information about two important matters.

## 1. Covid Update

A pupil in 10 Boulton 1 reported that they had tested positive for Covid using one of the Lateral-flow Device Home-test Kits. Although this positive test has not yet been confirmed through a further, more reliable PCR test, the pupils in this class have left school this morning and returned home.

While it may have been appropriate to wait for the outcome of a PCR test, or to complete further testing of pupils onsite, given the current concerns around new variants and so forth, the most cautious approach is to have them isolate away from school for the time-being.

Once the outcome of the PCR test is known, if it is negative, we will invite the class to return next week. However, if the PCR test is positive, then the class will not return until after the half-term holiday. In addition, if the test is positive, then further LFD tests will be completed with all Year 10 pupils next week to stop any possible spread of the virus between class groups.

I will share a further update about this matter when I write to you again on Monday.

## 2. Responding to the events in Israel and Palestine

This week, I have led assemblies with pupils in Years 7-11 around international, local and school-based responses the events currently taking place in the Middle-East.

Throughout the week, many pupils have spoken with one another, with their teachers and with me about what is happening, and they have done so with incredible knowledge, empathy and passion. However, we have also seen in the news and online a huge rise in anti-Semitism and hate speech.

In speaking with pupils this week, I have made clear that hate speech and anti-Semitism will never be acceptable in our school and I have also committed to working with pupils to find positive outlets for their passion around this subject.

One action that many pupils have raised with me is the possibility of a fundraising activity to support the victims of the violence. As such, following the success of the fundraising activity completed around a non-uniform today last half-term, I have agreed that a further non-uniform day can take place next Friday with proceeds going to two charities such as Islamic Relief and Save the Children.

More information around plans for the non-uniform day and how to contribute will be shared when I write you again on Monday.

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It has been an incredibly busy week at school this week and our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils are doing an excellent job in continuing with their assessments.

I will write again as usual on Monday with further information about the above, but also with new updates around Summer Camp and the Parent Consultation Group which I introduced on Wednesday afternoon in our Live Event.

As ever, if you have any questions or concerns, please do let me know.

Kind regards,



**Mr Guy Rimmer**  
**Principal**  
**Ark St Alban's Academy**