

Dear Parents and Carers

27th January 2021

I am writing to thank you for all you are doing to help support the girls and to work with us as a school. As we reached the grim milestone of over 100,000 Covid deaths yesterday in the UK and realise that the world of virtual learning and lockdown is to continue for a good while, it is more important than ever for our school community to stay strong and to support one another. All of your kind messages of thanks have been passed on to staff and they are very much appreciated.

I have not been sending you updates this term of positive Covid-19 cases in our school community, as I would be filling your inboxes every week. If there are any cases in school affecting the children of critical key workers, then parents are contacted immediately. Our positive case number now stands at 42 since September 2020. All were community based transmissions and not contracted in school. I have to report all positive cases of Covid -19 for our whole school community to the local Public Health England team, including during the half term, so please make sure you contact school if any of our students test positive.

The girls have settled extremely well into their guided home learning over the last few weeks and we are incredibly proud of their versatility and resilience. Please remind them that attendance is recorded, just as a normal school day. Having their cameras switched on is also more courteous, so that their teacher is not teaching to a screen of initials! We are constantly reviewing the quality of our provision and also workload for the girls and the staff and ensuring we are giving the girls time away from their screens, while ensuring crucial work is also completed. Please look out for some exciting initiatives to be launched soon to help all the girls be more active and also to boost reading! Also the GDST wide opportunities sent out for all – we are so lucky to be part of this wider network.

The deadline for the Ofqual consultation on the awarding of GCSE and A Level grades/assessment process closes on 29th January. Please make sure you have your say if your daughter/ward is in Year 11 or Year 13 and complete their online questionnaire. We will not be sharing any information regarding target grades until we have the final confirmed details from Ofqual about this summer's procedures and criteria for KS4 and KS5 assessments. We understand that this will not be published until possibly the end of February, but will keep you posted.

Birkenhead High School Academy
Principal: Mrs Rebecca Mahony BA Hons NPQH
86 Devonshire Place, Prenton, Merseyside CH43 1TY
Website: www.birkenheadhigh.gdst.net

GDST Academy Trust is a Limited Company
Registered in England No. 6000347
Registered Office. 10 Bressenden Place,
London SW1E 5DH

Senior School Tel: 0151 652 5777 Fax: 0151 670 0639



We are scheduling new dates for our virtual parents evenings for the Senior School and also there will be a virtual Year 9 Options experience for parents and students this year. We will be in touch soon with more information.

Please remember that Friday 12th February is an INSET day. There will be no lessons on that day and the school site will be closed.

Please continue to send in any good news stories for assemblies. We certainly need to focus on the positive news stories and celebrate the girls' achievements to help us through this. I am sure many of you will have enjoyed seeing the young poet Amanda Gorman steal the show at President Biden's inauguration last week. **The Hill We Climb** together at the moment is steep, but as she says:

For there was always light.
If only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.

With your help and the BHSA community spirit we will get there.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Mahony". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Mahony
Principal