

# Head's Space

Term 4, 2020/2021



It has been fantastic to have the students back in school, where they belong. We have been very impressed indeed by the vast majority of students who have come back with the right mind-set and ready to learn. In particular we have been grateful to the students who have, with very little grumbling, accepted the need to wear masks in lessons. I realise that this will have also been down to you, by supportively speaking to your children about this necessity before their return. My thanks to you and to them.

It is not surprising though that some students are struggling to settle back into school life—given that we have all had a very difficult twelve months prior to this point. We are doing everything that we can to support them. However, I would be grateful if you could have a conversation over the break about the importance of following rules. This is not about making lives easier for the staff—it cannot be fun to be a student who is constantly in trouble and the more students cooperate, the easier it is for all students to concentrate on their learning. Interestingly, it is not really the new rules we have put in place to protect our community from Covid-19 (such as masks) that some students are forgetting/choosing not to follow, it is the established rules such as making sure that mobiles phones are switched off and unseen from the moment the students enter school until they leave. I understand that parents are anxious that students should have their phones with them in case of problems during journeys to/from home – which is why it is very important that the students understand that, if they break the rules, they will have their phones confiscated. The students do know the rule, but some seem to have forgotten that we will follow it through. In essence, we do understand that we have all been through a tough time and that there is still uncertainty and reason to feel anxious; we also understand that coming back to school and suddenly having to follow our rules and conform is proving difficult for some. Ultimately our rules are not here to get on the nerves of our students, they are in place to keep everyone safe and ready to learn without unnecessary interruptions. Not following them is not only unreasonable, it is simply not fair on the other students, who have also had a tough time. Please remind your children that we expect everyone in our community to be reasonable – to help with this I have attached our 'reasonable' poster to this letter.

There is much in the news at the moment about the 'Everyone's Invited' website. It is deeply distressing to see the experiences that so many young people have faced. I just want to take a moment to reassure you that we take safeguarding very seriously indeed and will always listen to any young person who chooses to tell us of their concerns. We will also listen to you, as parents, if you feel you need to tell us about something that is bothering you. We are only a phone call/email away.

On a brighter note, I am delighted to inform you that, as of today, the school has entered into a 10 year contract with Freedom Leisure to keep the Sandwich Sports and Leisure Centre open to both the school and the public. Since taking ownership of the building, we have invested significantly in improving the sporting facilities for the students and community alike and our fundraising campaign to raise money to continue to make these improvements is going well. Our thanks go to Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund and Tesco, who have recently both made very generous contributions to this. We are now at 72% of our target value. To find out more, or to donate, please visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sandwich-sports-and-leisure-centre>

I am delighted to report that Year 11 and Year 13 are generally focussed and working hard to ensure we have all the evidence we need to make certain they receive the GCSE and A Level results they deserve. They have impressed us with the maturity, resilience and understanding they have shown towards the situation they find themselves in and we are confident that these two cohorts will do well.

All that remains is for me to wish you and your families a pleasant Easter Break and hope that you, like me, can finally begin to relax a little and look forward to better times.

With best wishes

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# REASONABLE

Sandwich Technology  
School is full of reasonable  
people...



**We believe it is reasonable to expect that:**

- nobody will be harassed, abused or harmed while at school
- teachers will be listened to and not interrupted when teaching
- students will be able to learn and not have their lessons ruined
- everyone will attempt the tasks that are set and ask for help politely if struggling
- everyone understands that rules are there to keep everyone safe and learning well so they do their best to follow them

**Ask yourself this:**

*Am I being reasonable right now?*



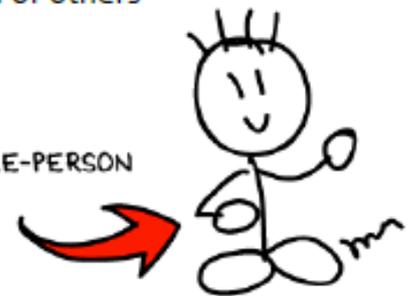
**Reasons to be reasonable:**

- reasonable people listen and learn better and get a **better standard of education**
- reasonable people have less conflict in their lives and are generally **happier**
- reasonable people are **likeable** and have good friends
- reasonable people are more likely to **get help** when they need it
- reasonable people make things **better for other people...** shouldn't that be reason enough?

**A reasonable person is:**

- sensible
- open to reason
- full of common sense
- fair
- respectful of others

A REASONABLE-PERSON



**Being reasonable is what decent people do**

*Hold fast that which is good*