

9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

We'd like to thank you for the continued support you have given to the Academy this half term. Our staff and students have risen to the challenges of learning from home; we have all worked together to ensure our children are firstly supported with their mental health, well-being and resilience through continued personal development and also continue to make progress academically. The adaptability of our staff and students to embrace and engage with 'live' lessons has been crucial to this. Team JQA, together, has accomplished so much to be proud of in 2021 already.

It has been wonderful to see so many rewards postcards being sent out each week from the Academy. We're told by students there is a special challenge that they have with each other to try and earn postcards of the four different values to spell out CORE on their fridge. How lovely!

There will be 'Rewards and Recognition' assemblies held for all year groups by their Head of Year on Friday at 0830. This will be an opportunity to recognise those students that have gone 'over and beyond' at Virtual JQA this half term, including those with 100% attendance to 'live lessons'.

Your messages of thanks have been greatly appreciated by our staff and you will see some of these shared at the bottom of this letter, in our [newsletter](#) and via social media shortly. If you would like to send us a message of thanks to share with staff, [you can do this easily via our form here.](#)

### **Arrangements for end of half term (Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February)**

Each term, we aim to have a 'well-being' afternoon to support students and staff. You will have noticed from our carefully-thought-out timetable that we have 'screen breaks' regularly throughout the day but have arranged for **live lessons to end at 11.15 on Friday**. This will give students and staff the opportunity to do something to help them relax, away from screens, as we begin our half term. We have shared some ideas of '[Well-Being Activities](#)' with students that have been put together by our 'Well-Being' team, guided by [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk). Our 'key worker' students can choose to leave site at 11.15 and can take a 'grab and go' bag for lunch or are welcome to stay until 3pm and take part in planned activities led by our team on site.

We will not be able to offer 'on site' provision for our key worker students over half term. However, our reception remains open over half term for any enquiries.

**All students return to Virtual JQA online via Microsoft Teams for 0830 on Monday  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

## **Students Returning to JQA in Spring**

The government is reviewing the [national restrictions](#) shortly and the Prime Minister is likely to set out plans for children to return to school as vaccinations continue across the UK for our most vulnerable and the cases of Covid-19 fall due to people observing social distancing rules.

We hope that students will return on 8<sup>th</sup> March and, as you would expect, we will make detailed and careful plans to ensure all students can return to JQA and learn safely on site, as students did in the Autumn Term. We will, of course, communicate with you at every step of the way and we are excited to see our students back on site again. We have missed them immensely.

We wish you all a safe half-term break at home,

Yours faithfully,



Mr. G. Williams  
Headteacher

