

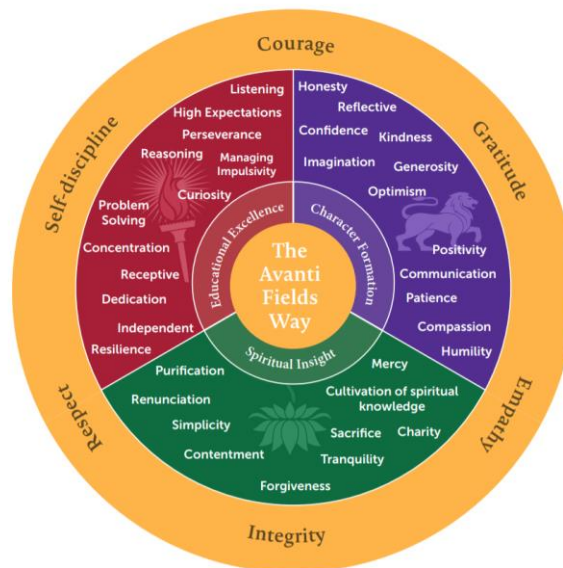


25th September 2020

Dear parents

We are now half-way through this half term and it certainly feels as if the change in weather is marking how quickly the weeks are passing since the start of term.

In such exceptional times we feel it has been important to focus closely on our values and the qualities and behaviours that will sustain us personally as well as support those around us. After such a long time away, tutor time has focussed on optimism and positivity and is now focussing on resilience and the “bounce forward” effect. You will have seen in our letters and in the student planner that “The Avanti Wheel” is our new focus for conduct and behaviour and acts as a summary of those qualities that we want our learners to develop and demonstrate in order to become the best version of themselves.



It has been lovely to hear and see our students thinking about these qualities and demonstrating them in their interactions. This week Year 7 students in English eloquently explained to me how they had used the Avanti Wheel to describe the qualities they felt heroes should possess.

You will know that we have been tireless in our preparations and plans for creating a safe environment and that as a school, we have had to adapt to very different way of working. Sustaining these new practices will be challenge; we are asking much of our young people to observe to social distancing, to wear a mask and to maintain bubbles. This requires much self-discipline and concentration, again qualities we value. We will continue to remind our students of what they need to do and why, but I would ask your on-going support in reminding them of the importance of showing care and consideration for the safety of all.

We have received a number of calls from parents asking if we have had confirmed cases on Covid 19 in school. Can I reiterate that if and when a case is confirmed we will naturally contact parents. I appreciate there is much anxiety at

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present, but can I respectfully request that parents do not call the school to ask about cases as this is taking admin staff away from being able to respond to other calls. We will contact parents when and if we have a confirmed case.

These are challenging times for everyone and it is asking the very best of ourselves to manage this with patience, empathy and courage.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Do enjoy the weekend

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Taplin', written in a cursive style.

Emma Taplin
Principal