

Teacher's Report - April 2022

As we head to the end of the year, we seem to be heading toward “normal”. Covid restrictions, for both students and the general public, seem to be changing daily. The teaching body is not approaching this without trepidation, but are heartened with how students, for the most part, abide by the mandates. Furthermore, if this is due to teacher modeling or advice from home is immaterial, the students are tending to continue to wear masks even while sitting in seats.

In the move to “normal”, we have seen school activities and celebrations; ECA clubs, sports, and the like, take their place again in our school culture. The celebration of Black History Month, the Dance Show, Robotics (Junior and Senior), Public Speaking, as well as winter sports, including Senior Ski days, though adjusted to the protocols and circumstances, were welcomed breaks from the academic calendar. Also not to be overlooked, is the reinstatement of the Graduation and Prom; well deserved celebrations for our Secondary 5s. We are anticipating in the coming school year, as things continue to open, that more activities, which in the past have rounded out the Royal West Students' experience, will be offered.

As June approaches, so does the return to a formal exam period. The ministry has mandated the weighting of these evaluations to be: Sec 1-3 final exams to be worth up to a maximum of 10% of the year, while Sec 4-5 final exams can be worth no more than 20%. As we see it, this provides students with a “lower stakes” opportunity to acclimatize to evaluations of this sort; a method that is a typical staple of CEGEP and university.

A final note should be voiced that we, teachers, appreciate the various peoples involved in our school community who are supporting our practice with their attention, diligence, and resilience. Our hope is that this type of engagement continues in order to strengthen our community and remain an inviting option for new members that are joining it.