



GUISELEY SCHOOL

29 January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity.

We understand that this will be reviewed on 22 February to enable schools and parents to have two weeks' notice. We very much look forward to welcoming students back to school when it is considered safe to do so. Whilst the partial closure is still in place, we will continue to refine and develop our remote learning.

It is essential that all students engage as much as possible with the online learning we are providing. Engagement and online attendance remains high. We are conscious of the tremendous effort that parents make in ensuring remote learning is successful and thank you for this. It will ensure that the catch-up required is far more limited than would otherwise be the case.

There are a number of updates for parents and some key dates and processes that you need to be aware of:

Remote Learning Engagement

We remain delighted with the vast majority of our students who are accessing our live lessons and completing their online assessments in a timely fashion. We also know that it is much harder for some students to remain motivated and engaged in learning when not at school and we hope that the clear systems we have in place, as outlined below, will help to support your child during this period of Remote Learning.

Where students are not engaging in Remote Learning or completing their online assessments by the set deadlines, we will follow the system below:

1. Class teachers will “nudge” the students via Teams messages to remind students about the assessments, tasks and associated deadlines. Teachers will offer reminders and support during the lessons and within the Teams channels.
2. If a student then does not engage despite additional reminders from class teachers, they will then be referred to our Pastoral Teams for monitoring.
3. Our Curriculum Leaders or one of our Pastoral Team will then contact you to discuss how to support your child in accessing Remote Learning and completing our critical online assessments.

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Where students are regularly completing the work successfully, and attending our live lessons, our class teachers will send out praise via Teams and achievement postcards will also be sent home.

On our website, there is a guide explaining our assessment and feedback processes during lockdown. We know that assessment is a critical part of the learning process, and we have moved swiftly to ensure that all departments are now using digitally-facilitated online assessment platforms.

Options Processes

Year 8 options 2021

In order to ensure that students currently in Year 8 have the opportunity to make the most of their study of Modern Foreign Languages in KS3 and allow them more time in which to make a decision around the language they may wish to study at KS4 we have decided to postpone the languages option process in Year 8 this academic year. Students will decide which language they may wish to continue with to GCSE level at the same time as they choose their other option subjects when they are in Year 9.

Year 9 GCSE options 2021

We will not be able to run our options process in the same way that we normally do. Instead we will be hosting a virtual options process which we are launching slightly earlier to give the students more time in which to make an informed decision.

We will launch our virtual options process in the week commencing 8 February. Curriculum Leaders have made videos which outline what it is like to study their subject at KS4 and we have produced an online options booklet as well as an online options form.

Throughout the course of this week, form tutors will show the subject videos as a part of their form time. All the videos and the options booklet will be available on the website for you to review at home with your child.

From Monday 8 February until the options process closes on 26 February, students can make use of Microsoft Teams to discuss different option choices with their form tutor or teacher.

You will be able to book a time to speak with curriculum leaders on 24 February using our virtual parents evening system should you have any questions.

Completed options forms need to be submitted by 26 February.

Testing

As you will be aware from the media coverage, shortly after we issued our form to collect consent for students to take part in the rapid lateral flow testing the Government put a pause on this programme.

We have sought assurance from the DfE and PHE with respect to the testing programme and having received these have begun the testing of staff in school. Whilst the DfE have made the decision to keep the daily testing of close contacts on pause we are now in a position to begin the testing of

students in critical worker provision for whom we have consent. We will contact parents of students in critical worker provision over the next week to explain how this will work.

We will keep those consents that we have obtained for students not yet returning to school until we have confirmation of the testing regime that will be put in place for these students, but will keep this information for no longer than 28 days if further guidance is not forthcoming.

Exams

I know it is incredibly difficult for our Year 11 and 13 students at the moment with the amount of uncertainty surrounding the summer exams and what system will replace these. The Government is currently ending its short consultation on what this process will look like.

Please be aware that we will be unable to give you any answers on how grades will be calculated until the consultation is over, new guidance is published and a plan has been developed on how we will implement this at Guiseley School. The most important message for Year 11 and 13 students is to keep working hard on the work set, keep in contact with your teachers via Teams and contact us if you need any help or support. Further information about the consultation can be found at the following link;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

Student Progress Reports

We have had a small number of enquiries around how parents and carers will be kept abreast of student progress over the coming term. We remain committed to reporting in line with the school calendar, which is available on the website. Some key dates to be aware of are that we will be issuing student progress reports for Years 7, 8 and 9 before half term, and Year 10 reports are scheduled for the week commencing 22 March.

Critical Worker Provision

Since the beginning of this lockdown, we have had nearly 100 children of critical workers and vulnerable children in school each day under staff supervision. They have also adapted to new ways of online working with impressive focus and maturity in school and we are very proud of the way they have managed during such strange times. Over the half term holiday, schools will not be open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children (15-19 February) but we will be open as usual for this provision from Monday 22 February.

Yours faithfully



Paul Clayton
Headteacher