



GUISELEY SCHOOL

18 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are now two weeks into our revised remote learning for this lockdown and I wanted to write to you with some key information around our new ways of working and to signpost some additional services that may be useful for some of our young people.

I am incredibly pleased with the levels of engagement we have seen in Year 12 and Year 13. Students have been logging onto Teams at 8.30 for registration and to receive key messages from their form tutor and the pastoral team. Attendance in online lessons has been fantastic, with students accessing the learning, receiving input from subject teachers and completing tasks while being able to communicate with teachers. This has been working really well and I am pleased to have heard such positive feedback on this from students and parents/carers. Teachers have also been praising the phenomenal level of effort and engagement that students are displaying in these times of uncertainty; students are showing great levels of resilience, adaptability and flexibility in their learning and I am incredibly proud of how they have adjusted to this new way of working.

This week's assembly in form time will be focused on "Self-Care" during lockdown. I felt that it would be timely to remind you of support systems that young people and families can access if they are feeling overwhelmed, or feel that they would benefit from talking to someone. During the next week all students will be contacted via a Teams personal chat or phone call by their form tutor or a member of the Sixth Form team. The purpose of this is to check that each student has no issues with on line learning, to check on their well-being and to offer support if it is needed. There is also a directory of external support systems on the school website under the wellbeing tab: <https://www.guiseleyschool.org.uk/wellbeing-support-and-services>. Any student who needs emotional support and advice can access these. I have written to your child separately about this but you may wish to look at this section of the website together, if you think that would be beneficial.

We reviewed what support students felt was most effective during the first lockdown. We received very positive feedback from students and families about the service Kooth, this is an online community accessible for young people at all times. Kooth has an internal moderation team and personal details are not shared on there, making it a secure platform for young people to access for support. In the Sixth Form I have also had positive feedback from the service that is offered by the Market Place in Leeds. This did offer a drop in centre where students could access support. With the impact of the pandemic, they are now offering an online service.

Should you need any further information or support, please contact me at school and we will do what we can to help and support you.

Yours sincerely

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