



5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you have had a good day and that your child has completed their online work successfully today.

During the course of the next few days I am hopeful that we will have further clarification from the Department for Education about how GCSE and Post 16 grades will be arrived at this year. There has been a huge amount of debate about the validity of exams already this year and we all need some very clear information about next steps. Our GCSE and Post 16 students have worked really hard in difficult circumstances. They don't deserve to be left with any further uncertainty about their future.

Since March last year schools have had to respond to rapidly changing guidance that at times has changed in a matter of days or hours. Yesterday's announcement following changing guidance about a staggered return to school and COVID-19 testing in school was only the latest example of this. In this context we are making sure that our plans for the rest of this half term are well thought through and fully explained to members of staff before we confirm these with parents and carers. This is not the time to rush into decisions without considering them fully.

I will write to you before the end of the week to confirm our longer term plans for this half term, but hope that the information below explains how we will be operating in the short term.

Online Learning

For the rest of this week teachers will continue to upload online learning activities to Google Classroom in line with the normal timetable which your child has in their planner. They will be available to provide support and answer questions through the 'stream' facility at the times provided below for these lessons. These lessons will not be live lessons but support will be live during these times.

- Period 1: 9.15 – 9.55
- Period 2: 10.10 – 10.50
- Period 3: 11.30 – 12.10
- Period 4: 12.25 – 13.05
- Period 5 14.15 – 14.55

Students will be set learning tasks that extend beyond these timings as well. They should also engage in the assemblies, activities to replace form time and House competitions that are set through Google Classroom to ensure they have at least 4 hours of online learning each day. Any work should be completed in exercise books or on paper this week. These arrangements are the same for all year groups, including Year 11 and Year 13.

HEADTEACHER: Mr David Hewitt, BA (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mr A Haigh, BSc (Hons)

DEPUTY HEAD: Ms C Mann, BA (Hons)

“Working together to achieve success”

IT support

If your child is experiencing issues logging into their Google account, including resetting their password please contact our IT team by using the email address below:

itsupport@josephrowntree.york.sch.uk

If your child is struggling with the work that is set, or you are having issues with availability of technology, please contact your child's pastoral team in the first instance.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Students

We already have a number of students who are accessing provision in school, but we have been told to limit the number of students in school. If you believe that your child should be accessing a place at school, and isn't doing so already, please contact your child's pastoral team by 11.00 on Thursday 7 January to discuss what support we can offer.

All students who are accessing school are following social distancing protocols to reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19. They will complete the online learning activities that are set by their teachers with support from pastoral staff and Teaching Assistants.

Students entitled to Free School Meals

We are awaiting further clarity from the Department for Education about what provision will be put in place for Free School Meal students who are working at home. In the meantime we will issue supermarket vouchers to these families each week.

Thank you for your continued support at a very uncertain time. Before the end of the week I will write to you to confirm the following:

1. Online learning arrangements until February half term
2. Pastoral support for students working at home
3. Any changes to key school events this half term
4. Latest developments with COVID19 school testing processes

Best wishes



Dave Hewitt
Headteacher