



15 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to start by saying thank you to those of you who have given us feedback about remote learning. We have had some really positive messages thanking us for our hard work and I have passed these on to colleagues. We have also received some helpful suggestions that have helped us to fine tune our approach.

I have joined a number of online lessons this week and watched recordings of other lessons as well. It has been great to see how well our students are responding to our new way of working, and I have been really impressed by the excellent contributions they have made. Thank you for all you are doing to support your child's remote learning.

We will be continuing to develop our delivery of remote education next week, and I will update you in my letter on Friday 22 January about our plans for remote learning for the rest of this half term.

Ms Mann has sent some important information to parents/carers about our expectations of behaviour during online lessons. Please ensure that your child is fully aware of these and also encourage them to check for notices that will be posted through Google Classroom.

Rewards for KS3 and KS4

We have been very impressed with the number of green comments that are being awarded in lessons this week.

From next week, we will be announcing rewards for individual year groups weekly, rather than waiting until the end of the half term, with vouchers being posted home. Notices will be posted in the tutor and year group classrooms and students will be made aware which day these rewards will be issued each week.

Weduc APP

The Weduc APP is a very useful tool for you to support your child's remote learning. You can access their timetable, and a live update on green and red stamps that teachers are awarding. The notices and newsfeed is regularly updated to reflect notices to students that are placed in their google classroom, so you can keep up to date with these as well. If you haven't already downloaded the APP please do so. If you need support to help you do this please contact school.

Exam grading process

We were pleased that the Government has released some initial information about how exams might be graded this year. Two key parts of the process for GCSE and A Level exams that have been outlined at this stage are

1. If teacher assessments are used, these will be collected as late as possible in the academic year. This will hopefully allow a wide range of evidence to be taken into account
2. It is very likely that externally set short exam papers will be used to judge students' performance

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DEPUTY HEAD: Mr A Haigh, BSc (Hons)

DEPUTY HEAD: Ms C Mann, BA (Hons)

“Working together to achieve success”

We are still waiting for further clarity about vocational exams.

The Government will be launching a two week consultation about the arrangements they are putting in place for exam grades to be awarded. We will be responding to this, but parents/carers of students who are due to sit exams this year may also want to respond. Once the consultation is launched I will send you a link to this through Weduc and email.

If your child is entered for external exams this year (including Year 10 RE), please continue to encourage them to engage fully in remote education. It is important that they are well prepared for any assessments or tests that they will have to complete as part of the exam grading process.

COVID-19 Testing

I am pleased to be able to tell you that our in-school COVID-19 testing facility is set up and has been Quality Assured by colleagues from the Public Health team in York. They gave us very positive feedback and we are ready to start testing all members of staff who are working in school from next week. Regular testing is an additional health and safety measure that we will use to enhance the systems we have in place already.

You may have seen some information in the media, questioning the suitability of Lateral Flow Tests for testing students and staff who are identified as contacts of positive cases in schools. We are awaiting further advice from the DfE and Public Health before we use tests in this way.

The Public Health team have asked me to remind you to cancel any tests that you may have booked at the universities before the national Lockdown was announced. Once we have an indication about expected return dates for students we will confirm what testing arrangements will be put in place. It seems likely at this stage that schools will continue to be closed to most students, at least until February half term.

The link below takes you to some advice about Lockdown from City of York Council that you may find helpful.

<https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/LockdownSupportCYP>

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes



Dave Hewitt
Headteacher