



5 February 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

I hope that you and your family are well. We are awaiting further information from the Government about the plans for school reopening and about how exam grades will be awarded. The consultation about the exam grading process closed last week and I believe there has been a significant number of responses to this. It seems likely that we will know the outcomes of this during February half term, or shortly afterwards.

Screen Free Days

Wednesday 10 February is the first of our 'No Screen Days'. In advance of the day your child will have an assignment set through their whole year group Google Classroom. This assignment will have a link to a Google site which holds a range of possible activities covering all subject areas in school that students can undertake on this day.

Each activity has an equipment list so students can identify what they will need to complete their chosen activity in advance.

We have tried to offer a variety of different activities that can be completed away from a screen, in order to engage students with their wider learning. We would love to see the results of this work. If your child takes any photographs of their task during the day, please ask them to submit them through the assignment on Google classroom.

Whilst this day provides a break from working on screens, we also know that some students are struggling with using screens daily. We have posted information in Google Classroom that tells students how to apply a screen filter to prevent excess glare from their screen. Please encourage your child to make full use of the lunch and break time gaps in the school day to get away from looking at a screen and do some exercise, such as taking a short walk outdoors. In addition, you may want to discuss approaches to each lesson across the school day with your child. Students can complete their work in their book or on paper, and then take a photo of this work and upload it to the assignment, instead of completing work on a Word or Google Document.

Rewards and Green stamps

We are very impressed with the high quality of work being completed by students this half term. Weekly rewards are being awarded by both Heads of Year and our Assistant Headteachers for each key stage, recognising green comments, lesson referrals, and all round resilience and perseverance during this period of remote learning. A reminder that a live update of your child's positive green stamps awarded can be found on the parent portal within the Weduc App.

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”

Extra-Curricular Activities

In addition to our timetable, there are a number of competitions and challenges that students can get involved with across the school. Information is posted daily in the Tutor Group or Year Group Classroom for students to access, and we strongly recommend students check this daily. Competitions include the weekly numeracy challenge, House competition, and the 'V Factor' Competition! Applications for the V factor are still being taken and further information is available on the school website and at the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/josephrowntreeschool.co.uk/thevfactor/home>

Parent Questionnaire

We have had a lot of feedback from parents and carers about how pleased they are with the remote education we are providing and we have also modified our approach following suggestions that parents and carers have shared with us. To allow us to further review our remote education offer before half term please complete the short survey that can be found at the link below. The survey will close at 16.00 on Wednesday 10 February.

<https://forms.gle/gQuJUH4UsQ88VdXd7>

Year 9 Options

If your child is in Year 9, their option form should have been submitted by 9.00 this morning. If you have missed this deadline please complete the form today.

The School Run 2021

A group of our staff are involved in a running pledge with current and past teachers from other City of York schools. They have pledged to run 20km, for 21 weeks, to raise money for the charity Fareshare. This is a charity that fights hunger in the UK by redistributing food which would otherwise go to waste to almost 11,000 charities nationwide.

If you wish to support them in their efforts please donate via their Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/education-2021>

Thank you as always for the support you are giving your child with their remote education.

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes



Dave Hewitt
Headteacher