



12 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are well. Whilst we have been really pleased with the response to the remote education we have provided this half term, I know that students, members of staff and yourselves will all be glad to have a break from online lessons and Google Classroom. We don't yet know when all students will be back in school, but it feels like the end of remote education is in sight as we finish for the half term holiday.

### Google Classroom

Thank you to those of you filled in the feedback form from last week. The feedback was very positive; 90% of parents/carers said they strongly agreed, or agreed, that they were happy with the amount of work being set, the challenge that the work provided and that their child engaged in learning every lesson.

The feedback we received about the structure of lessons giving sufficient breaks from screen time was where parents/carers raised most concerns. We have been told by the Government that we have to provide 5 hours a day of remote education and we also wanted to maintain the normal structure of the timetable. Delivering live lessons is the most effective and engaging way to do this, but we did not want to have 5 full hours of screen time. We deliberately put in break times between lessons and do not expect all independent learning tasks to be completed straight after each lesson. Online timings are set around the timings of lessons in school to allow us to maintain this structure if students return to school on a staggered basis.

If your child is struggling to complete independent learning tasks during the day it may be worth asking them to complete tasks at the following times –

- 10.50 – 11.10 Independent Learning task from Lesson 1
- 13.05 – 13.25 Independent Learning task from Lesson 2
- 13.55 – 14.15 Independent Learning task from Lesson 3
- 15.10 – 15.50 Independent Learning tasks from Lessons 4 and 5

These timings will give your child regular breaks after each lesson and 30 minutes for lunch.

Students in Year 12 and Year 13 should be continuing to complete the same amount of work as they would do in a normal school week.

We have gathered feedback from students and we will use this alongside the feedback from parents/carers to give teachers further guidance about delivering remote education as effectively as possible after half term.

Please continue to encourage your child to log in to their Year Group and Form Group Google Classroom at the start of each school day to check for messages and updates.

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**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”***

## Screen Free Day

We had some great feedback from our non-screen day on Wednesday 10 February and it was lovely to see all the photographs and films that were sent in of students completing activities. I hope it gave you a break as well and made for a more relaxing day at home.

## Uniform

Please check that your child's uniform still fits them! Students will have been out of school for 11 weeks by 08 March (almost twice the length of the school summer holiday) and may have grown out of their uniform and shoes. If your child does require new uniform, and you are struggling to afford this, please contact your child's pastoral team.

## Safeguarding

Please encourage your child to complete the weekly welfare check that is posted in their Year Group Google Classroom. This allows us to pick up any issues and provide support where needed. The welfare check is posted on a Monday.

All schools in York have been asked to remind their students not to trespass on Network Rail land or railways. There has been a spate of incidents of trespass and vandalism recently which have caused significant disruption to the rail network, with the perpetrators putting the lives of themselves and others at significant risk. Please remind your child about the importance of making safe choices when they are in the community. Network Rail have created some resources that you may find useful to have a look at with your child, but please be aware that they are hard hitting.

[www.youvstrain.co.uk](http://www.youvstrain.co.uk)

## Training Day 4 – possible change of date

To give students who are sitting exams this year the best possible chance of success we have made some changes to our calendar of assessments. As part of these changes we are likely to have to move our scheduled Training Day on Monday 12 April, to Friday 23 April.

I will be able to confirm the date of our new Training Day once we know the final detail of how grades will be arrived at this year, but wanted to give you notice of the possible change at this stage.

If we receive further information from the Government over the half term holiday I will update you about our plans in the week beginning 22 February.

Best wishes to you and your child(ren) for a restful half term holiday and thank you again for all you have done to support your child's remote education, it is much appreciated by all the staff in school.

Kind regards



Dave Hewitt  
Headteacher