



22 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your family are well and that your child is continuing to access their remote learning effectively.

Remote Learning for the rest of this half term

For the rest of this half term, teachers will deliver their timetabled lessons for all year groups through Google Meet. This means that there will be some live verbal interaction from teachers in every lesson. We have had a lot of positive feedback about how verbal interactions from teachers are effectively engaging students in their lessons and encouraging them to complete work more fully. The timings of these lessons will remain the same as for the last three weeks and teachers will continue to set independent learning tasks that should take at least 20 minutes to complete.

All work from the day should be uploaded by students to their assignments in Google Classroom by 5pm. This allows teachers to review the work that has been completed and plan effectively for the next lesson. The breaks in between lessons can be used to complete some of this work, but students should also have a break from screen time.

Over the course of the last three weeks, we have been looking at different approaches we can use to deliver content most effectively in online lessons. Teachers will use a variety of these approaches in their lessons and this will differ between curriculum areas. Some of the content will be delivered through pre-recorded Loom videos which allows students to rewind sections so that they can check what they are being asked to do. In these lessons students will still be able to access support from their teachers through the Chat facility in Google Meet and teachers will still have a live verbal interaction with their classes at the start and end of each lesson.

Please be aware that the only time lessons won't be delivered as described above is when teachers are absent from work. Some of our teachers are absent over a longer period of time and we are covering these as best as we can with other teaching staff. Where lessons can't be delivered as described above we will set work in Google Classroom and students won't have to access a Google Meet.

Year 9 Options Process

Mr Haigh, Mrs Clarke and Mr Day have released information about the options process to Year 9 students and their parents and carers this week. All of this information can be found on the school website. Option forms should be completed by 9am on Friday 5 February.

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”

Exam grading process for 2021

The consultation period about how exam grades will be awarded this year (for all exams, including BTECs) closes on Friday 29 January. Until the final guidance is published we will not have clarity about what pieces of evidence we can use to arrive at a final grade. I appreciate that this continued uncertainty will be unsettling for students who are due to sit exams this year, and their parents and carers, but speculation about this will be unhelpful. Until we know what evidence can be used, we will not be reporting any information about grades for students due to sit exams through reports or Parent/Carer Evenings. Instead, we will focus on attitude to learning throughout the first term and during this period of remote education. Once we know what criteria is being used, we will provide an update to students and parent/carers so that they are aware of how grades will be awarded.

Students due to sit exams this year should continue to attend all online lessons and complete the work set to the best of their ability.

Reopening of schools to all students

We are all looking forward to the day when all of our students return to school. There was some indication from the Government on Thursday that schools would reopen 'certainly before Easter', and that schools, parents and carers would be given two weeks' notice of when this was going to happen.

I am hopeful that we will receive information in a timely fashion, allowing us to plan accordingly, and give you a clear indication of the timescale for reopening.

Thank you again for the support you are continuing to give your child with their remote education.

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes for a restful weekend.



Dave Hewitt
Headteacher