

27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to take the chance to update families with how the last couple of weeks have progressed in school. In general, the response to remote learning has been exceptional and the commitment of colleagues to the Key Worker Provision has enabled many more parents to attend work during these difficult times. Whilst education remains a hot topic in the press, I thought it would be good to continually review and share LSA's position.

### Testing

We are continuing to use Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing for all staff. We are also testing all students on site at least once a week (where we have consent). This is all part of our risk assessment to keep the environment as Covid Secure as we can. However, we have been instructed by the Department for Education (DfE) to remove the daily testing where someone is confirmed as a close contact. **All this means is that we follow the original plan to isolate if you are a close contact of a confirmed case. If this applies to you, we will let you know.**

### Online Learning

Thank you for the feedback about the new lesson times. We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved with remote learning and each day sees us develop our provision. However, we are also aware that each day brings new challenges (including the failure of an entire broadband provider locally!!) We have a structure now that can provide high quality remote learning, surpassing all the government guidelines and Ofsted related standards. We are also looking to constantly review and adapt as we learn more. We are working on plans that will see further adjustments, but as always, will keep you informed.

As we mentioned before, we are trying to provide genuine home education, which should not require parents to "teach." Thank you to everyone for working so hard to create learning environments wherever possible and ensuring that your children are getting the best they possibly can out of this odd situation. We continue to ask parents to take an interest in what their children are learning and ask them to speak about what they have learned in their lessons (and if they say "nothing" please don't believe them!) If time ever allows, please also keep encouraging your child to have time away from their machines and find something to read.

### Perspective

Remote education is a challenge for all families. We are continuing to monitor engagement, through attendance and work submission, but we are committed to keeping the wellbeing of students, families and colleagues as high a priority as possible. Thank you to parents who have used the website and the attendance line to let us know when children can't access their learning due to illness or connection issues. We will continue to work with families as close as possible to keep any disruption to a minimum.

### Returning to School

As always, there is a lot of speculation in the press about when school will reopen. Today's announcement in parliament is that schools are unlikely to reopen fully until March but we await further details. We did receive an early notification today that the school will be closed over the scheduled half term week, which will hopefully allow children and colleagues an opportunity to rest and recharge. Our

intention is to continue working hard up until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, with our mix of live and recorded lessons.

Thank you again for the many messages of support and the acknowledgement of how brilliant our staff team is. I have shared many of them this week and it really does provide a lift during these strange days of remote teaching.

Have a great week,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Baker', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Ray Baker  
Headteacher