

8th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As the term continues, student attendance has been excellent considering the challenges we are all facing. However, we want to be prepared for the need to provide a remote education when the situation arises. Over the initial lockdown period, the level of education provided remotely by the school was generally excellent. Our approach was sensitive to the needs of students, staff and the wider network of families. The evidence of this success has been the quality of lessons we have seen day in, day out since we returned from the longest ever enforced school closure.

In some ways, planning for this was easy as the situation was the same for everyone therefore we could manage the learning as a whole. We followed the research and focussed on tasks that cemented prior learning. Teachers were able to measure engagement, test knowledge and then plan for the group. We are not expecting a long, extended school closure again, but the reality is that there may be periods of time over the next terms where education will be interrupted. **Our ultimate aim is to ensure that our students' learning remains fluent in all areas.**

As this term progresses, we will see more students isolating with symptoms of coronavirus, as well as staff and family members isolating. We will have a document to share with all students and families shortly that details our approach and will support parents in ensuring their children are able to continue working well. Despite reports of government actions around remote learning, it is important that we stick to some key values and drivers:

1. We have to be realistic

- a. Each family will have their own commitments and restrictions, so whilst expectations are always high, we are sympathetic to individual situations
- b. To deliver "real time" lessons when school is "open", each member of staff would be required to teach their "lesson" in school, finding extra time to support the learning of those not in school. This can be done, but not without many extra hours of work
- c. Nothing we provide can replace the impact of high quality teacher led lessons, but we will do our best
- d. We are focussing on ensuring our staff continue to be exceptional in evaluating what students know, plan how to fill in gaps and ensure that no students is left behind

2. We recognise that each subject may need to deliver certain aspects of learning through different formats

- a. Each subject will be led by experts who know the most effective methods to deliver the key aspects within their subject area

3. No two schools will be the same in their approach

- a. LSA will provide online, remote education that is right for our students, in our situation. We are one of Lancashire's best schools because we do what is right for our students and our community rather than copy others

4. We will continue to champion excellent pastoral care to support students most in need over any period of isolation

- a. Heads of Years, learning mentors and form tutors will prioritise contact and we will aim to know as much as we can about each and every student

There will be many more challenges ahead for us in our quest to get the very best outcomes for everyone. We are confident that our students will be able to access their work and retain learning fluency. We know that we can manage their progress remotely and support them with feedback to help with knowledge and understanding where necessary. However, students will be required to develop strong study habits, which is something parents can help with. These might include:

- Find a place at home to work without interruption
- Set time limits and follow a structured timetable
- Ensure that time spent on school work is sensible
- Make sure children understand that these are strange and difficult times and that they will be successful learners if they prioritise their remote learning during the day

We want to be transparent and clear about how this may work, recognising that many other factors impact our delivery remotely. There is a growing swell of people who believe that remote learning equates to a "live" lesson, recording the teacher as they teach. Like during lockdown, the reasons for this not being possible are many and wide ranging, including access to technology. We found over lockdown that people found many different ways to access online work but we need to know more about situations where this causes problems.

What will happen next:

- LSA will publish a policy and guide about remote learning, detailing roles and responsibilities
- Each department will ensure that they advertise how they will manage remote learning
- All students will be asked to check, test and make sure they can work with our main learning platforms: Satchel One, MS Teams and Office 365. **Please make sure your child shows you these applications either on a computer or mobile device**
- Parents will contact their child's Head of Year if learning remotely at a particular point, especially with internet access, will cause excessive challenge. This will allow us to see what support we can structure.

Our blended approach to learning has already started. Many classes are already merging work in class, resources on line and homework to deliver lessons currently. All students will have access to resources, which they can revisit, attempt and share. Therefore, any student should be able to revisit lessons, talk about what they have done and share with you details of their learning. This is powerful for parents supporting children but also means that ANY child at home (and well enough to work) can stay up to date with their lessons.

I realise that there is a lot of information here, but it is important that we understand the situation as it currently stands as well as being prepared for whatever the next few months bring.

Yours sincerely,



Ray Baker
Headteacher