



**Opportunity
Community
Courage**

Friday 15 January 2021

All members of the SWS family,

I hope you are well and keeping yourself and your families safe as we continue through these challenging times.

Remote Learning

This week (w/b 11 January) we saw the full launch to all year groups of 5 hours per day of Live Learning Events (LLE). Well done to everyone who has engaged with this so positively and constructively. Attendance at sessions has been extremely high and the feedback we have received is helping us understand how best to continuously improve our delivery of the highest quality online teaching experience we can. You can find all the information you need on our new website and all our social media platforms.

To support all students who are struggling with access, we are sending out laptops as quickly as our IT technicians can build them and, thanks to Mrs Casewell, we have made further links with regional businesses that mean we have sourced more units that we will be distributing across our school community as quickly as possible.

Lateral Flow Testing

Now that we are fully registered, we have started LFD testing this week across our site-based staff and we begin testing the children who are accessing our lockdown provision from Monday 15 January. Thankfully, so far, all our tests have returned as negative. Next week we will also begin to work with our Primary School colleagues across the town in training and supporting them as they prepare for testing in their settings.

You may have heard reports in the press today (15 January) that lateral flow testing is unreliable and may inadvertently lead to increased spread of the Coronavirus.

Lateral flow testing is an additional safety measure, being used in conjunction with our existing infection prevention measures, including social distancing, the wearing of masks, frequent hand washing, and minimising time spent outside the home during this lockdown period.

Lateral flow testing is not a substitute for these measures, and a negative test result does not give 100% assurance that the test subject does not have Coronavirus, although in the majority of cases this is an accurate result.

Even if you have received a negative result, it is crucial that you continue to follow all other safety guidelines and should not assume you are definitely not a carrier of the virus.

Thank you for your continued support and vigilance in respecting the guidance and helping stop the spread of the virus.



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Year 11 and the summer examinations

Following the announcement from government that this summer's examinations have been cancelled, more details were given this week that really did not help give any clarity on what is required from schools and their students. This remains a situation that we are monitoring very closely. What we do know is that until the OFQUAL consultation is complete, everything is merely noise and speculation. As you would expect, as soon as we have clear, unequivocal guidance we will let all students know what to expect. Our best advice until then – **attend all your remote lessons and continue to work to the best of your ability**. Communicate all questions and concerns with your teachers – and try not to worry. How you progress in the summer and how we connect you with your next step in life is our absolute priority.

Free School Meals: Food parcels and the voucher scheme

From today, food parcels for FSM eligible families are available for collection from school. Our view, in light of concerns expressed after images of less than adequate parcels seen across the media, is that there are ingredients for 10 healthy meals in each box.

From Monday 18 January, the national voucher scheme returns. We have registered for this as you would expect and we should be in contact with all eligible families throughout next week. As the vouchers are being delivered by suppliers we have worked with before, we expect a quick, clear process. Updates will be posted throughout the week.

Student and parent/carer surveys

In order that we can catch the experience of lockdown, remote learning and any support we may be able to give you, we will be sending out a quick survey over the coming days. It would really help our understanding and help shape the direction of our work if we get your responses. Year 10 and 11 students should expect a survey form to be out next week.

Communications

Please continue to check all our platforms for regular updates and information during lockdown. We post on Facebook and Twitter as well as having added a news platform to our website. You will find everything you need to access curriculum content, teaching and learning, updates and support on these platforms. I will continue to post short video messages at the end of every week to keep you in touch with how the week has gone and what is expected in the week ahead.

Stay safe everyone

Jason Fraser
Principal