



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Headteacher's Update**

I would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. I sincerely hope it will improve significantly for all of us as the year progresses and I am sure it will. I hope everyone has had a good Christmas and while we weren't able to do much, we were able to do the most important thing and that was spend time with our nearest and dearest even if not with anyone else.

I of course welcome you back after about 17 different courses of action have been announced for schools since I last sent you a communication. If we have learnt nothing else in the past few months, we have learnt that things change. Nothing appears to change more so than advice, guidance and instructions from our beloved Department for Education. You will have seen how we are constantly getting contradictory guidance, expected to make major changes with no notice and despite what is reported in the press we have had almost no external support or funding to assist with any of this.

We know how difficult the current situation is for parents and students. We have children of our own and we share your concerns and challenges. We are extremely grateful to our parents who have genuinely understood how difficult it has been for schools. Between us we will ensure that your children receive the support and education they deserve regardless of the situation we face.

The vast majority of students are now working from home. I cannot emphasise how important it is that students use remote access to take part in their lessons. The lessons are live and being taught by the students actual classroom teachers. It is interactive and is as close to the exact same lesson they would have had in school that it is possible to have. By engaging with these lessons, students will continue to make good progress with their learning. Failure to engage with these lessons will result in students falling behind. If you require support with this please follow the links in the notices below.

Our Year 10 and 11 students will be fully aware that their formal GCSE exams have been cancelled. Grades will now be awarded via Centre Assessed Grades. There will be further details to follow on this very soon. Cambridge National exams have not been cancelled and are currently planned to go ahead in June, though of course this may change.

The key however is that students engage fully with their remote learning. All teachers will be focused on preparing you for assessments which will then be used to inform your Centre Assessed Grade. There will be several assessments and all of the work done via remote learning will be to prepare you for these assessments. Basically if students aren't engaging with their remote learning they will not be able to successfully complete the assessments and this will be reflected in their final Centre Assessed GCSE Grade.

I wish each and every one of you all the very best during this current lockdown. The time frame for schools being partially closed is at present until February Half Term but we have no idea if this will change. Most things you may wish to ask about have details on our website. We are sending the weekly updates which include details of anything we are being asked about and students should be in lessons every day and will also have weekly assemblies. We will soon ask you about our remote learning provision to see if there is anything you think we need to improve.

Mr D Shields

### **NOTICES**

Lesson times for remote learning are as follows:

Session 1: 09.15 – 10.45

Break: 10.45 – 11.00

Session 2: 11.00 – 13.00

Lunch: 13.00 – 13.40

Session 3: 13.40 – 14.40

- Link for remote learning questions and support [remote learning lessons](#)
- Link for lap top support [lap top](#)
- Free School Meal vouchers are emailed weekly to those who are eligible
- If your child needs help in logging on or needs any technical support please contact ICT Support on 01706 396068
- Please ensure your child takes regular breaks whilst working from home.