



29th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Parent Update Letter

Contact with our students

We are incredibly aware of the range of challenges parents, students and indeed our own staff are facing on a daily basis. In many ways, this is what drives us on to ensure that we are providing what we deem as the best and most appropriate provision for our whole school community. You will be aware that your son/daughter currently has a personal mentor from school who will meet online at least once a week to provide advice and support. In addition, we have set up daily assemblies from 9am and set up Google Chat rooms for each subject to provide a different platform for students to contact their teacher for support and/or other students within the subject. All of this is working alongside the remote learning that is set on Google Classroom via ClassCharts by teachers on a daily basis.

Despite the overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents and students, we continue to review and develop our systems and processes. This week, our Year 7 and 8 tutors trialled extremely successful live tutor sessions which provided students with an opportunity to interact and engage with the tutor and one another again. As a result, we are now finalising plans to roll this out across all year groups to provide one live weekly tutor session per week, 9.15-9.30am. Students will receive announcements on ClassCharts regarding the day of their session.

As we would like to further increase interaction with the students, we are also working on a trial of live subject drop in subject sessions to allow the opportunity for face to face (or screen to screen!) support where it may be required. Once we have finalised the proposals to trial this, more information will be shared with the students.

Increasing engagement

We are aware of the varying levels of engagement with remote learning by students across the school. There are some who are becoming stressed and working long days to complete the work to the best of their ability whilst we know there are others who are not engaging at all. Please be aware that we understand there may be barriers to your son/daughter completing their work, for example, they may be ill on a particular day. However, if we do contact you in any way such as text message or email to inform you that your child is yet to log on to the assembly or live tutor, please be reassured it is with the best of intentions to help keep you informed. For example, there are some students who are informing parents that they are logging in to complete work yet we can see differently in school. Any messages, emails or phone calls are all about us working together to support our students and your children.

Year 9 Parents evening

It was important for us to go ahead with our Year 9 Parents' Evening last night to ensure we were able to move forward with the GCSE options process. There were some really positive discussions at subject level which have now helped students to focus upon their preferred choices moving forward.

Half term & full reopening

You may or may not have seen the national update about school holiday closures and post lockdown reopening dates on the news. This was in two parts:

1. Schools are not expected to be open during the half term break in February. For Wellfield, this means that there will be no in school provision from Monday 15th until Friday 19th February and staff will not be setting remote learning. It will be a chance for students to switch off from their school work and spend some time relaxing or engaging in other activities.
2. Further news on Wednesday was the announcement by the Prime Minister that schools COULD reopen from 8th March. This does not mean we are - there is no definitive date as yet and we await a further and much more detailed update.

We are all looking forward to the day we can return to school but, in the meantime, please continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Lewis

Head of School