

January 22nd 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Week 3 of the latest lockdown and sadly no sign yet of how long this may go on for! I hope you are all keeping well in these challenging times.

Remote Learning

The vast majority of our students are continuing to engage with learning and that is really encouraging. We do however currently have around 8% of the school population who for one reason or another are having only minimal or no engagement in remote learning. It is obviously vitally important that young people do not fall further behind in their studies than can be avoided and staff will be chasing up non engagement or where students are not submitting work. Year Heads and Senior Leadership will regularly contact parents where there is no or minimal engagement with learning while class teachers will follow up cases where expected work is not submitted. This may mean you get multiple contacts but it is really important that we engage with those young people and families to try to address the problem. If it is matter of access to devices please do get in touch – we have so far loaned out almost 150 laptops or chrome books and have arranged for broadband access where necessary to allow students access to online learning.

Expectations regarding behaviour in live lessons are very clear. Please be aware that if a student was to misbehave they will be removed from Teams and so be unable to access live learning for a period of time. We have been very pleased with behaviour so far.

Students in school

Just a reminder that for those students who are in school, they do not need to wear uniform but

- They must wear masks when moving around school
- Mobile phones are not allowed
- School rules on jewellery and make up still apply

Free School Meals

We are now operating the scheme from Edenred which provides a voucher of £15 for each child per week who is in receipt of free school meals. I am aware that a local supermarket is operating a food box scheme but please note that individual families cannot order these directly and we are not taking part – we are just using the vouchers.

Year 11

The Department for Education and Ofqual have published a consultation on assessment of Year 11 for the awarding of grades this summer. If you wish to read and respond you can do so -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

It is clear that the DfE wants some form of centrally organised papers (effectively mini exams) as part of the assessment process this summer but continuing with learning to finish courses is also important so that Year 11 have the knowledge and skills needed to move on to Post 16 courses. We will decide our approach once the results of the consultation are published and the guidelines finalised but it is clear that Year 11 students cannot afford to relax in any way and must continue learning and revising.

Year 10

Year 10 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 28th January and will be held remotely so that you can have a video call with each of your child's teachers through any device that has a microphone and camera. If you have not already booked your appointments please do so at <https://carrhill.schoolcloud.co.uk> You do not need a username or password – just enter the details asked for.

Please continue to stay safe.

With best wishes,



Mr A Waller
Headteacher