

January 29<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## Remote Learning

After Wednesday's announcement we know that there will be no return to school for most students until March 8<sup>th</sup> at the earliest. Remote learning will be the norm for at least another four school weeks but I do think we are in a good place regarding the remote provision and we have loaned out around 150 devices to ensure students can access work at home. It is certainly demanding on students to be in front of a computer for learning for so many hours a day and as we review our provision I have asked staff that

- Lessons finish 5 minutes before the normal time to give students a slight break before the next lesson and to give their eyes a rest from the screen
- We do not set any additional work as 'homework'. Year 11 however should continue to revise for whatever assessment they will have to sit in the summer which will form part of their school assessed grades.

**THE 20-20-20 RULE**  
*to reduce the effects of digital eye strain*

Take a break for 20 seconds...  
...and look at something 20 feet away...  
...every 20 minutes.

Follow the 20-20-20 rule and give your eyes a break! [healthysetgo](#)

Towards the end of this half term on Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup> we will also have a consolidation afternoon where no new work will be set for periods 4 and 5, allowing students to catch up on anything they may be behind in or engage in some other, hopefully enjoyable, learning activity.

Some students inevitably are anxious about work during this lockdown period. I do not want anyone worried when they are doing their best and engaging with the work - we can all only do what we can do in these circumstances. Please do reassure your sons and daughters if they are getting anxious; ask them to contact their mentor or teachers; tell them that there will be time when we are back to address the gaps in learning; remind them that everyone of their peers in the country is going through this challenging time.

A survey about remote learning is being sent to all students.

We were due to be collecting Year 11 data over the next week so that we could report to parents and carers at half term. As a result of not being able to do the mocks and because do not yet know the exact arrangements for assessment in the summer, there will not be a report this half term.

### **Parents Evenings**

Yesterday we had our first Parents' Evening using the remote icloud system. I will send out a survey to parents and carers of Year 10 who used the system to get some feedback but hope it was a positive experience. Staff comments about the system have been very positive this morning.

Parents' Evening for Year 9 will be on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Letters will be sent out later today.

Parents' Evening for Year 8 will be on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Parents' Evening for Year 7 will be on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Mentor Time**

A reminder that students should log on to meet with their mentors on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 8.55 and 9.10am.

### **Half Term**

In line with the Government announcement this week, schools will not be open at all during the half term break. We are still waiting to be informed what the arrangements will be regarding free school meals during that week.

Best wishes



Mr A Waller  
Headteacher