

Headteacher: Mr K Hirst Executive Headteacher: Mr T Croft - BEd

Our Reference: KH/GHR

1st February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we move towards the February half term, I am writing with an update from school and with some important information regarding the ongoing school partial closure. One month into the latest lockdown and you will be aware that our approach to remote learning is different to that which we used last year.

As you are aware, school is only open for a small number of identified students and those whose parents are critical workers and who cannot make arrangements for children to stay at home. DfE guidance states that:

'Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can'.

Full DfE guidance can be found <u>here</u>.

I understand how difficult this can be for some families but welcome your support in ensuring that as many students as possible to stay at home as we continue to support wider measures to control the pandemic.

Student engagement with remote learning

Teachers are working incredibly hard to provide high-quality learning experiences for our students. This approach includes live lessons via Microsoft Teams, set tasks and recorded content on Show My Homework. In addition to lessons, students also have a daily tutor time starting at 08.30am each day.

Students are required to engage daily with their online learning. If teachers are concerned about a student's engagement, or if a student is not logging into Show My Homework on a regular basis, a member of school staff will be contacting home to provide support and attempt to remove any barriers to remote learning.

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From **Wednesday 3rd February** the school will be notifying parents on a daily basis, via text message, if a student has not logged into Show My Homework. If there are any problems regarding accessing remote learning, please inform your child's form tutor or Head of Year who will offer support and guidance.

Parent Survey – remote learning

We are very keen to gain parent views of the current remote working arrangements. This survey will only take a few minutes to complete and your feedback will be extremely useful as we review our current practices. To access the survey click <u>here</u>. Please respond by **Thursday 4th February**.

Children with COVID-19 symptoms

A reminder that if your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <u>https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test</u>.

Assessment and Reporting

The latest lockdown has obviously had an impact on our assessment and reporting calendar. I would like to reassure parents that all students will receive an academic report this year. We are currently looking at the timeline for the year ahead to identify when reporting can take place. When dates for the publication of reports are agreed these will be shared with parents.

Parent Governor

An opportunity has arisen to appoint a new parent governor. Further details will be circulated shortly with further details of the process and how to apply.

I hope that we can soon start the planning for the return of students from next half term and look forward to sharing these plans when we have more detailed information.

Extending very best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Mr K Hirst <u>Headteacher</u>