



Tuesday 19th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

During both of the periods of school closure and remote learning, we have used feedback from students, parents, carers, teachers, research and external literature to continually improve our curriculum delivery. Consequently, there are some further small changes that we are now putting in place.

All remote education will remain based on carefully sequenced curriculum, scaffolding and giving students the building blocks to develop their learning. We will continue to use a range of assessment methods to ensure that teachers both assess and redirect learning and to give meaningful feedback to students so that they know what they are doing well and what their next steps in learning are.

Wellbeing and Safeguarding

We are aware that too much screen time is detrimental to wellbeing and also, currently, there is additional pressure on home wi-fi and devices. Consequently, we will now aim to ensure that lessons use a range of methods across the timetable. We are also giving form time each week so that students can catch up socially with their peers and their form tutor. Year and whole school assemblies are continuing on Teams and other community events are being planned too.

The questionnaires will continue to be sent to students regularly. These ask for feedback on wellbeing, what they are enjoying and what they find hard. Students have the opportunity, through these questionnaires, to specify any difficulties so that we can address them either through our whole school remote learning provision or individually with students and subjects. Wellbeing and safeguarding continue to be priority. Students are also encouraged to contact their form tutors or head of year if they would like further support. In addition, they should all be aware of the online safeguarding policy, knowing what to do if they are ever in doubt.

Format of Remote

We ask that all students log on to Microsoft Teams at the start of the lesson. Lessons will then use a range of methods including but not limited to the following:

- Continue with whole class teaching on Teams, making use of both the chat function and microphones to enable engagement, two way discussion and assessment for learning.
- Use of breakout rooms on Teams to allow small group discussion and encourage social skills. Teachers will continually drop into any small groups as they would do in a physical classroom.
- Clear explanations and instruction then giving students time for retrieval and practice either online or away from the screen.
- Students may be directed to other learning resources including paper textbooks or documents in the Remote learning folder.
- Paper copies have already been provided for some subjects and others are currently being sent in the post.

Opening a World of Opportunities



Homework

Again, in support of wellbeing, we are pausing the setting of homework in most subjects for Years 7, 8 and 9. Homework set in other years will be reduced if or where appropriate. This will give additional family or leisure time after a day of intense learning. As the evenings get lighter, this should allow students to get out for a walk and have some valuable fresh air and exercise.

Praise

Our praise systems were previously logged using our SIMS system in school. This is no longer possible in remote education so although students will have received informal praise directly from their teachers, you will have seen a reduction in the information we have sent home. We have now set up a system which allows us to track praise given and consequently, this will be collated and more formal praise systems will start presently.

We will continue to refine our provision of remote education, including for events such as the options process which will take place in the week before half term. We are able to continue to improve due to the feedback we get from students, parents and carers and really appreciate any comments sent.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Lisa Shakespeare

Deputy Headteacher