

huish
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Dear Parents and Carers

Remote Learning during Lockdown

I write to share updates with you for the coming weeks of remote learning. This week has seen a massive amount of planning and work in response to the announcement of national lockdown on Monday. I would like to publicly thank all of the staff for the fantastic way they have risen to the latest situation. This week we have distributed laptops and food hampers to families, welcomed students into school, provided online lessons, tried to contact all families and set up a testing station in school. We have also planned our remote learning provision which will run from Monday until the end of lockdown. I believe that this is far better than we were able to offer in March.

Remote learning

We know how important routines and contact with staff are to our students, so we have worked hard to provide a clear one-week timetable for your child, keeping as closely as possible to their curriculum at school.

There will be three live lessons a day, lasting at least 30 minutes each, delivered on Microsoft Teams. The live lesson is an opportunity for teachers to interact with students, deliver new content, check understanding, and explain the tasks set. We know it is also really important for students to see familiar faces and have opportunities to ask questions.

Each live lesson will have an accompanying task for your child to complete, set on ClassCharts. There will be a deadline given for your child to submit the work. Teachers will give feedback in lessons, and across the term students will receive personalised feedback for each subject. The mix of live lesson and follow up task is intended to provide structure for students and families each day. It means that students are also not sitting in front of a screen all day. We have staggered lesson times where possible to try and support those families who have children in different year groups to reduce pressure on internet devices.

Each student has a new timetable which will repeat each week. This will be sent out to both parents and students via email. An overview timetable for each year group will also be placed on the school website for reference along with some additional resources and websites that may prove helpful. These can be found using the Remote Learning tab on the homepage.

It is very important to make sure that there is a clear break from school work and so students will not be expected to work across the weekend or into the evenings.

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There is guidance on how to access Teams attached, and also on the website. If you are having any difficulty with accessing live lessons, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Tracking

We will be taking registers for lessons and the expectation is that students engage with the learning offered by the school. Students have all suffered with time missed from school and so we must make the best of this latest situation. We will be contacting you if students are not logging onto their lessons.

We will also be expecting work to be submitted and will let you know if work is not being done.

Key Worker school places

Each week we will send out a booking form for those parents of key workers who require a place in school. It is vital that this form is completed each week and by the deadline so that we can adequately prepare for the next week. If the form is not complete then we will, regrettably, not be able to have the student on site. We have significantly more students in school than during the first lockdown which creates staffing implications especially as we are trying to also deliver considerably more live lessons each day. I would request that you only ask for a place if there is a genuine need. Students should be in full school uniform. It is also essential that all students bring a mask with them. We will be contacting you if we have to keep issuing masks to students at this time. Behaviour must be excellent. We are unable to staff our parking rooms and so if a student behaves poorly then we may have to ask them to remain at home. As students will be joining the live lessons on their timetables from Monday, we would ask that they also bring in some headphones so that we reduce the need to share equipment. School will start at 9am and end at 3pm.

Free School Meals and Canteen service

We have issued food hampers to students who receive free school meals up to Monday 18th January. From Monday 18th we will be issuing families with vouchers as we did over the Christmas period. We already know that we will also be issuing vouchers over the half term in February.

The on site kitchen service will be suspended for the lockdown. This means that we will not be able to provide ANY food on site from Monday 11th January. The free school meal provision already in place should allow families to then supply students with food and drink for the day.

Testing

We have trained staff following government guidance this week so that we are in a position to test both staff and students. A consent form will be sent out and I would ask that you complete and return this to us so that this is in place for when students return to us after lockdown. For those students of key workers who are in school we want to start testing on Monday and they should bring the consent form with them when they return on Monday morning.

Year 11 Exams 2021

You will have heard the Education Secretary announce that GCSE exams this summer will not proceed 'as usual'. This is a huge blow for our Year 11 students as they will be denied this rite of passage. Although no details have yet been released it seems reasonable to expect that we will have some form of center assessed grades this year. This means that beyond continuing to learn for the joy of knowledge and skills, students

will also still have to complete assessments to allow teaching staff to award honest and accurate grades in the summer.

Reports

Before Christmas, teaching staff were collating data for the first report this year for all year groups. We will be sending these out during the week beginning the 18th January and for Year 11 this will include their mock exam grades.

Wellbeing

The news that surrounds us all creates anxiety and uncertainty for us all. We know that the inability to see friends is particularly difficult for young people and many struggle with loneliness. There will be activities to try and offer support to students during the next few weeks and there are some further resources on the school website in the section called Remote Learning that might be helpful.

The kind and supportive messages that some of you have sent have been very welcome and thank you. We will try to keep you informed and would ask that you stay in contact with us over the coming weeks. Your first point of contact will be your child's Tutor and then the Head of Year. Please let us know what is working well, as well as what additional support you will need.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddy', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Mr J Eddy
Head Teacher