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5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

## Re. National Lockdown (5<sup>th</sup> January 2021)

Last night, the Prime Minister announced another national lockdown in response to the ongoing Coronavirus situation. One of the main features of the new guidance was the announcement that schools will remain open only for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers and that all other children will learn remotely until February half term. I would like to provide you with a summary of the school's response to this significant news.

### Remote Learning

We have all learnt much in the education system since March about remote learning and the school has invested a lot of time and resources since September in preparing ourselves for this eventuality. The plan for remote learning is as follows:

For the remainder of this week (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> January) we will continue with our published plan of live lessons for all Year 11 and 13 classes and online work for all other year groups.

From Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 all year groups will follow the same plan which will be as follows:

- All students will follow their published timetable (except core PE)
- Each day will start with a form period (08:40-09:00) on Google Meet
- All lessons for all year groups will follow the same structure (except for core PE)
- All lessons will start with a Google Meet led by the teacher lasting between 5 and 30 minutes
- The remainder of the lesson will consist of student work on Google Classroom with the teacher available for questions/review etc
- Resources for the lesson will be on Google Classroom
- Google Classroom codes will be published on Go4Schools

This will ensure students will have as close to a normal school experience as possible in the circumstances.

I have attached to this letter a summary of remote learning that I would ask you to talk through with your child/children so that they are prepared and understand the expectations.

### Examinations

Public vocational examinations scheduled for January will go ahead as planned and we would encourage students involved to carefully check the date, time and location these are taking place.

The government has announced that they do not think it will be possible for all exams in the summer to go ahead as planned. At the moment, that is all we know and we will be in touch with examination years as soon as we hear what alternative arrangements have been put in place. The Department for Education is in talks with Ofqual (the exams regulator) to find the best way to assess students, hopefully avoiding the issues that accompanied last summer's results.



We are still planning on running our mock examinations for Years 11 and 13 in March.

### **Support School**

Our Support School for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers has been running all week and will continue to offer on-site provision for the duration of this lockdown.

### **Pastoral Care**

Once again, we must face the reality that young people are likely to struggle with aspects of this enforced social isolation. The school remains committed to the pastoral care of our students and the following provision is in place to address these needs:

- Daily form time (08:40-09:00) on Google Meet
- Form tutor/Head of Year contact with students not engaging
- Wellbeing checks on students identified by the pastoral and safeguarding teams as being vulnerable
- Signposting external support including counselling

### **Testing**

We continue to prepare for a testing programme on-site that will allow us to provide lateral flow testing kits to staff and students where consent has been given.

### **Free School Meals**

We have been in contact with our families entitled to Free School Meals to ensure that food parcels can be collected from the school site as required.

I am devastated, once again, to be closing the school for the majority of our staff and students. While we faced a number of challenges last term, I was very proud of how the school community responded to our strange circumstances. I have no doubt that we will also adjust to this latest situation and do what we can to help ease the country out of this dreadful situation.

I would like to thank all students, staff and parents/carers in advance of the extraordinary efforts everyone is making to keep education going.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes



Mr Jeremy Scott  
**Headteacher**