

5th January 2021

Updates for Parents & Carers

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the announcement from our Prime Minister yesterday evening, I would like to provide further clarity on several matters.

Year 12 & 13 Students

Vocational examinations will still go ahead for Sixth Form students; they will be in school from tomorrow, Wednesday 6th January. Information for individual course requirements are in each student's Google Classroom stream.

Remote Learning

We have made changes to the timings of our lessons to make it easier for students to access them on time. The daily programme will be as follows:

Lesson 1 - 9am-9:45am

Lesson 2 - 10am-10:45am

Lesson 3 - 11am - 11:45am

Lunch - 11:45am -12:15pm

Lesson 4 – 12:15pm -1:00pm

Lesson 5 - 1:15pm - 2:00pm

It is vital when signing in to live lessons, that students name themselves on their device (phone, laptop) using their full name. This enables staff (who may not always be the class teacher) to complete a register for attendance purposes.

Student Timetables / My Child at School App

There have been some changes made to student timetables in Year 7 and 8. Families who have the *My Child at School* app will see these changes automatically. If you don't have the app you will be unaware as to the changes and this may mean that from next week your child may miss live lessons due to a change in lesson times. Timetables were due to be reissued this week to all students.

It is imperative that at least one member of your household has access to the app as this is how we are communicating important information to parents/carers. Please can I ask that you use the information below to access the app, if you haven't done so already, in order that you can see the timetable changes.

Other useful features on the app include-

- Crediting lunch money balances
- Viewing dinner details

Respect • Ambition • Bravery

- Paying for school trips
- Ordering/paying for school ties
- Checking attendance
- Updating personal information

Your details are as follows-

School ID: 11927

Username: (Username)

Invitation Code: (Invitation Code)

Please visit www.mychildatschool.com or download the My Child at School App from the app store.

You will first need to 'Redeem Invitation Code' and create a password before being able to log in to your account. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Year 11 Examinations

Following yesterday's announcement from the government regarding the change to exam arrangements for this year, it is important that we clarify some details around what this means for students who are due to complete GCSE exams at the end of the year.

During the announcement last night, the Prime Minister stated that it "would not be possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal" and that Ofqual and the DfE were working on "alternative arrangements". We are currently awaiting further information as to what these alternative arrangements will be, but we felt that it was important to communicate with you the importance of students continuing to engage with their learning and completing their courses through the work set by their class teacher. It is imperative that students continue to access their online learning in order to be as well prepared as possible for how they will be assessed. Our teachers are working hard to provide high quality online teaching and we will be continuing to monitor the attendance of students for their online session carefully. If you are having technical issues, then please contact your son/daughter's Key Stage Leader, Mrs Dakin. We will await further guidance from DfE and will update you as soon as we are able to. We appreciate that this is extremely unsettling for students, please rest assured that we will support them in any way possible and understand the anxiety that this uncertainty may cause.

Free School Meals

For students eligible for Free School Meals, we will be providing families with vouchers on a weekly basis. Further details of how this will work will come out later this week.

Lateral Flow Testing

You may be aware from government updates, that schools have been tasked with testing staff and students for Covid-19 using the Lateral Flow Device test. We are currently in the process of training staff and liaising with local Public Health teams for support and guidance. The tests are administered

Respect • Ambition • Bravery

by the student or staff member themselves and trained school staff are present to support and to process the test and record the results. I will be sending out detailed guidance for parents and carers tomorrow; this will include a privacy notice and consent form. Please can I stress that consent to the test is a personal decision to each family and **no child will be tested without written consent from a parent / carer**. Testing will start for staff and students who are attending school and for whom consent has been obtained from next week.

I thank-you for your continued support during a very difficult time, when messages and directives from the DfE and government change daily.

Yours faithfully



Miss L Proctor
Principal