

22 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope this finds you and your families safe and well.

As we approach the halfway point of the term we can reflect on the many successes that we as a community have experienced.

We have over 30 students regularly attending our on-site provision, benefiting from staff support and a school working environment.

Over 60 devices have been issued to students who otherwise many not have been able to access our remote provision.

Student engagement in live lessons in almost double what it was in the first lockdown. Staff and students have been able to benefit from new online platforms, a wider range of remote teaching methods and easier systems of communication and work submission.

We are incredibly proud of how far we have come as a community and how much support is being offered by parents and carers to both students and staff.

It is also important that we look ahead to rest of the term how we can continue to improve this experience for everyone. Please see below some key updates of what you can expect and some important reminders:

Year 11 and Year 13 Examinations

The consultation for Summer examinations is currently live. We would encourage students and parents to engage with this and have your say. The link to the consultation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2021>

We have sent a Co-Headteacher video message to students in these year groups explaining in a bit more detail what this means for them and how pleased we are with how they have responded to the uncertainty around their grades.

Attendance and Engagement

From Monday we are introducing a new system for staff to monitor and track student attendance to live lessons and engagement with work. This will enable us to see which students may need additional support and ensure that they can access the curriculum.

Year 9 Options

We plan to continue with our Year 9 Options process this year, albeit slightly differently. The process will launch on Thursday 11 February with a virtual event and will be followed by a number of activities and meetings to support the decision making process. A key event within this will be the Year 9 Subject evening which will be held virtually next term. More information on booking appointments will be sent out nearer the time. This is an incredibly important time for Year 9 as they make decisions regarding their education for the next two years. We want to ensure that that current circumstances do not disadvantage our Year 9 students and we will make sure they are fully informed about the different courses.

Wellbeing

We continue to have staff and student wellbeing as a top priority and would encourage students to make sure they are taking regular screen breaks, getting outside for fresh air and contacting their teachers if they have any concerns or worries. We have a dedicated team working on supporting those students who need us the most. This offer also extends to parents and families who may be finding the current situation overwhelming. Please do get in touch if we can support you in any way.

We hope you are able to have a restful weekend and please continue to follow guidelines to keep us all safe.

Kind regards

Mr P Griffiths and Mrs E O'Carroll
Co-Headteachers