



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I am writing to you today to give you an update on the plans we have made in school in response to the lockdown announcement made by the Prime Minister yesterday evening.

We will continue to be driven by the priorities of Health, Wellbeing and Education. These allow us to ensure staff and students remain safe and well, whilst we continue to drive up standards across the school. Over the coming weeks, we be focusing our attention on the following:

1. Remote learning

All our students will be following a remote learning timetable. They are all expected to take part. I do understand the demands that home schooling places on family life, and as such, I have asked staff to ensure they are tracking the engagement of all students regarding their learning. As time in lockdown continues, staff will monitor the quality of the work completed by students. Please work with our teachers, and keep them informed if you have any comments/concerns regarding your child's progress. It is so important that we continue to work together as we strive for high standards of teaching and learning for all our students.

2. In school provision & Form tutor phone calls

In line with DfE expectations, we are providing an in-school provision for our most vulnerable students and for children of key workers. Each year group will have their own provision area allocated. Whilst in the provision, students will be following the remote learning timetable and will have access to ICT equipment. They will be supervised by a member of staff. These places are agreed in advance, so that we can plan how many staff are needed to supervise, and how much catering/cleaning will be required each day. **It is very important that you keep us informed if you no longer need a place.**

I have asked all form tutors to contact their students each week by telephone. This is to ensure they have full access to everything they need regarding their work and to share any immediate updates with them. From time to time, we may ask you for some feedback of our work, and to check that you are all keeping well. Lockdown can be a challenging time, and are keen to support our families as best we can.

3. Year 11 strategy

Following on from the unexpected announcement last night that GCSE examinations have been cancelled, I do not have a great deal of further information to share with you at this time. The planned vocational examinations that were scheduled for Thurs/Mon **will still take place**. There is to be a further announcement from Gavin Williamson on Wednesday.

I am sure that this announcement may have caused increased anxiety for our year 11 students and their families. Whilst I do not have official information yet, I am confident that **we will need to assess your learning at some point**. It is also highly likely that **we will need evidence to back up our judgements**. So, in order to ensure we are preparing

correctly, we will postpone (not cancel) the PPEs planned for next week. **Students are expected to work with us remotely, so that we can ensure they receive the best grade they possibly can.**

For parents of Year 10 students, due to sit their GCSE English Literature examination this year, the same advice would apply. As soon as we have further details we will be in touch.

4. Lateral Flow Testing (Mass testing of Staff/Students)

The concept of testing staff and students on site is one that we are still being asked to pursue by the DfE. I do believe that this is potentially a positive idea. It would allow us to reduce the number of close contacts who need to isolate at home for 10 days, in the event of a positive Covid case, However, the logistical challenges for a school do remain a concern.

Given that we are now in a lockdown situation, the number of staff and students on site are greatly reduced. This gives us the opportunity to trial the testing on a much smaller scale. We will begin this process with staff over the coming days, and we will contact parents with further information when we know more about the logistical process. Please note that **no student will be tested without parental consent.**

I hope this information reassures you all regarding our current position, and how we anticipate to be working in the coming weeks.

Once again, many thanks for your ongoing support.

Kind regards



Mrs H Murden
Headteacher