

Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus

As a result of the new lockdown which began yesterday, the Government has issued further guidance to schools. There is some change to current practice but it is important to note:

- Students are expected to be in school unless they are self-isolating as a result of a positive test, showing symptoms or living in the same household as someone who is symptomatic or who has tested positive
- Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education
- Those children whose doctors have confirmed are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place
- Face coverings should be worn by staff and students when moving around the school and in communal areas where a 2 metre distance cannot be maintained. We are therefore asking that face coverings are worn at all times unless in the classroom or when eating/drinking
- We will not be able to run any extra-curricular activities after school during this lockdown period as the advice specifically refers to this but academic intervention will continue
- We are changing the way in which we set work for any student who is having to self-isolate. From Monday, November 9th, students should simply log into their Synergy account, click on Classwork and then click on the relevant subject. The work will mirror what they would have been doing in class (though not always possible in subjects such as PE or Technology). If students are being invited into a live lesson on TEAMS there will be an instruction for that on the relevant subject page. The work will be there so that they can follow their actual timetable or access the work at another time. In the Covid section of the website, there will be a student video tutorial if they are unsure how to access the work and next week we will post a parent guide for remote learning

It is important if a student is having to self-isolate that you do inform us if they do not have access to a computer so that we can address that issue for the period of self-isolation.

Students who are self-isolating are expected to engage with their school work unless prevented by illness. It does need to be recognised that students working on their own may get through work quicker than when in class. If they do finish, they should use the remaining lesson time for revision or recapping.

All students will be given an additional exercise book to leave at home for any self-isolating work if they do not have their subject exercise book with them.

Synergy

We have begun the process of rolling out parent log in details for our new school platform called Synergy. Parents of students in Year 7 should have received those details this week and next week we will send them to parents of students in Years 8 and 9. I do encourage you to log in daily once you have the details so that you can see your

child's records and particularly how well they have engaged with learning in each lesson with a 5 being outstanding, 4 focussed, 3 passive, 2 reluctant and 1 meaning they needed to be timed out.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thursday 12th November should have been our Year 11 Parents Evening. This was not going to be possible under previous restrictions and certainly cannot go ahead now. Further information, beyond the data we sent out before half term, will be sent out this weeks so that you have a more detailed picture of progress in each subject. We will also arrange to meet some parents by Zoom our through a phone call.

Year 11 mock exams begin on November 16th in Maths, English and Science.

There is information regarding the AKS Sixth Form Open event attached to this letter.

Mobile Phones

In an effort to reduce the number of adults needing to come into school we are changing the mobile phone policy. If a phone is confiscated it will be kept until Friday evening and then returned to the student. Students know that mobile phones should not be seen or used in school and that if they are, they will be confiscated.

Dining Room

In addition to a range of sandwiches, paninis and burgers that we have been able to serve so far this term, we have now been able to add more options. There will be a soup available each day and a hot main course:

Monday – Sausage, mash and beans

Tuesday – Lasagne

Wednesday – Chicken curry

Thursday – Pasta

Friday – Fish and chips

As always, please do get in touch if you need to, especially during these difficult times. I would ask though that to reduce the number of adults in school, you do not just come to Reception, but do contact by email or phone in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Waller
Headteacher