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29.01.21

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to our weekly update – 29th January 2021.

I'm guessing that the announcement this week from Boris, that we will not be back to school until the 8th March at the earliest, didn't take many of us by surprise but was still very, very disappointing. I have spoken to numerous parents this week and I also have my own son, a Y11 student, at home, so I fully understand the pressures and difficulties that this new announcement brings. I can only try to reassure you that whatever you are doing to survive this pandemic is good enough. I have listened to parents about the trials and tribulations that they are experiencing and if it is any consolation, I have them at home too. You must keep going and if you feel you need someone to talk to or some additional support, please contact us at the school. I'm not sure we'll have all the answers, but it is always good to be able to talk to someone.

Home learning

Many thanks to those of you who responded to the survey on our remote learning provision since Christmas. Your feedback has been shared with the staff. We are conscious that remote learning is placing significant screen time demands on children and young people and we are therefore planning some developments to address this in the coming week, details of which we will of course share with you.

Your feedback is immensely helpful to us and the wellbeing of all our students is of the utmost importance to us. We know that we must get the balance right and that while school provides intellectual experience, it must also support the emotional, social and physical wellbeing of young people. Bear with us.

To help with home learning

Students are able to download their own versions of Microsoft Office from their Office 365 homepage to help with their home learning.

How to download Microsoft Office for FREE on your own devices

Open a web browser and type in: portal.office.com

Sign into your account with your school e-mail credentials.





Click on 'Install Office' – choose Office 365 apps.

A set up file will download, this will show at the bottom left corner of your screen (see below)
Click open then Run- follow the instructions to complete installation process.

Year 11 students

For parents of Y11 students, please look out for the revision packs that should be arriving through the post early next week, in advance of the revision morning on Wednesday.

Y 10 students

Parents Evening Wednesday 3rd Feb 2021

Please book in to speak to your child's teacher.

Year 9 students

Parents of Y9 students, the timeline for the Y9 options process is as follows, so please look out for the launch of our virtual options event on our website on Monday March 8th.

Y 9 students - Options timeline:

Options Booklets posted home week beginning Monday 8/2

Virtual options event goes live Monday 8/2

Y9 Options for Careers Event Tuesday 2/3

Y9 Parents' Evening Wednesday 3/3

Options taster week 8/3

Options interviews week Mon 15/3

Trial run forms our Fri 19/3

Trial run Mon 22/3

Rewards

Teachers are nominating students from each year group every week to be put into a draw for an Amazon voucher. Thank you to the parent who sent us the following email:

My son received a voucher for Amazon this week as per nominations from two teachers. I wanted to let you know that he was absolutely delighted with this, as was I. I know many kids are trying very hard at the moment, but in getting some recognition for his own efforts, it has helped him with motivation and understanding that he isn't working in complete isolation. Many thanks, from a proud parent!

We are trying to think of ideas to help you at home, please let us know if you have heard of or seen other ideas that you feel will help and let us know.

As always, please stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely

Loz Wilson
Headteacher

