



Ref: JDE/era

Date: 7 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your patience and understanding at the start of this very unusual term. We now have a clearer idea of the government's plans and have been able to move to a fully remote programme for teaching and learning.

It has never been more challenging for our students to engage in their learning. However, that makes it more important than ever that they focus on their education. Our school ethos, 'Empowered through Learning' reminds us every day that it is through education that our young people will lay the foundations for a successful future. We very much appreciate your help and support in encouraging your child to embrace the learning opportunities and complete their work to the best of their ability.

We now know that public examinations for Year 11 and 13 scheduled for the summer will not take place. Once we are clear on arrangements about how students will be graded; when we have a clear picture we will let you know what this means for your child. However, students in Key Stages 4 and 5 should remember that the work they complete during the next few months will form part of a wider portfolio to support any grading calculations we are asked to make.

It is expected by the government that all students classed as vulnerable will attend school as normal. The government guidance also states that children with at least one parent or carer who is listed as a critical worker are eligible for a school place. To see who the government classifies as a vulnerable student or critical worker, please [click here](#).

As you know, all of our remote learning is provided via Google classroom. This can be accessed on laptops, tablets or phones. It can also be accessed on a Playstation or Xbox. In addition, there is a wider range of learning resources available - please see the guide sent with the letter for more details.

Your child will have access to an exciting variety of learning materials, including pre-recorded lessons which they can watch at their own pace, pause and rewind. These resources are all accessed on Google classroom using the student's school account.

From Monday 11 January we will be increasing our offer to include some live-streamed lessons. These will start with Years 11, 12 and 13 and will be rolled out to other year groups soon after. We believe live lessons will provide improved interactions between your child and their teachers, maintaining the very positive relationships which our students enjoy. It will also allow students to learn with their peers as they would in classroom lessons. Live lessons will largely follow the normal timetable and details of lesson times will be shared with students via their Google classrooms and school email. Some 'lead lessons' may take place during Period X, between 3.00pm and 4.00pm.

Clearly, all students participating in live lessons at home will be subject to the usual behaviour and safeguarding policies that we have in school. Please read, with your child, the student protocols for live lessons sent with this letter. It is important that you share our expectations with your son or daughter so that live lessons provide the same high-quality learning experience you would expect.

With all innovations, it will take some time for live lessons to become established and perfected, we ask that you bear with us while we improve our skills and expertise! We are confident that live lessons will be valuable to all our students and hope that your child will engage with this provision. However, if you do not wish your child to join live lessons, please let us know by contacting their Year Head.

If you have any questions, please contact the school as follows:

IT/password	IT helpdesk
Subject work	Class teacher
General concerns	Year Head or PSM

With best wishes.

Ms J van Deelen
Deputy Headteacher