

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As we are all now aware, an announcement has been made that children may be allowed to return to school from the 8th March. No further details have been provided and the Prime Minister was clear that this was the earliest there would be a return. Once we have further information, we will begin to plan how we welcome all students back and keep you informed. We cannot wait to have our school full of students once again. It's been too long.

FSM vouchers

If you are eligible for these, they are being provided through WONDE which we used during the Christmas holidays. We are not now using Edenred as previously stated in my letter. The Local Authority will continue to fund vouchers through February half term - you do not need to do anything additional to receive these.

Government pilot scheme for increasing mobile data

To ensure all students can access remote learning, the government has launched a new pilot scheme to increase mobile data allowances for students. This scheme will temporarily increase the existing data allowance on your child's, or another selected household member's, mobile device at no extra cost. Your child's Head of Year will have sent you information about this scheme in their communications, so please follow their instructions if you would like to join the scheme.

Additional INSET day

As a result of having to cancel the training for our INSET day on 5th January, we have moved this staff training to Wednesday 20th October 2021. This training is required because we are a Church of England school and are inspected as such. The term dates for 2021-2022 have been amended to reflect this. It means you have a longer half term break with your child(ren) which may or may not be a blessing!

Remote Learning update

We are coming to the end of the first full 3 weeks of Remote Learning and students have shown increasing resilience and confidence in adapting to virtual lessons. We want to clarify the live aspect to lessons and provide a few reminders:

For all year groups:

- Classwork should always be submitted via google classroom at the end of the lesson
- There will be a 'live' element to the majority of lessons and teachers are expected to be available to support students during the lesson time. This may be via g/chat, g/meet or email. Teachers will give students clear instructions on how to contact them during the timetabled lesson time
- If a teacher is contacted outside the lesson time, it is expected that they will respond in a timely manner
- Lessons finish after 45 minutes

- Guidance on accessing our digital platforms can be found [here](#) on our website
- More detail on our Remote Education Provision is available [here](#)
- A student guide to online learning is also on our website and can be found [here](#)

Year 7, 8 & 9:

- No additional Independent Learning (IL) will be set

Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form:

- will have some IL to ensure that the curriculum content can be fully covered

After half term we will be sharing a simple Remote Learning report with you. This will enable you to see how your child is engaging whilst learning at home. Please understand it is not the same as a Progress Check because students are not learning and being assessed in the same way as normal. However hopefully it will help you support your child.

Feedback from LCCD

Thank you so much for your engagement with LCCD at the end of last week. Some of your feedback has helped us make further tweaks to our Remote Learning offer, as you will have read in the previous paragraph. We also would like to apologise for the technical issues which once again were beyond our control and linked to School Cloud who facilitate the virtual meetings. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Off-screen Challenge day

We will be sharing some details about this exciting screen free Challenge day on the 10th February soon! Please note that on the afternoon of 8th February there will be no lessons - to allow for staff training.

Reaching out

We are aware that this lockdown is very challenging and for many of us more so than the previous lockdowns. You are doing an absolutely amazing job supporting your child(ren) with Remote Learning: many of you are also holding down a job either working from home, or at your place of work. We are so appreciative of all your support. Thank you. However if you feel there is any way in which we can support you or your children, please do get in touch. We might be able to offer some advice, practical help or signpost you to an organisation that can help.

I leave you this week with a message from our Chaplain, Mr. Richards. Our theme of the week has been 'Set an Example' from 1 Timothy 4:12:

'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.'

This is an encouragement for our students but also for all of us (of all ages!) to keep showing love for one another in words, and actions. One short speech or even a few words of hope, faith and love to those around can make a big difference during this difficult time. Our Academy prayer asks God to; *'Teach us to serve each other with joy'*. My hope and prayer is that you may know some joy today and that you may be able to share that joy with those around you. May we *serve each other with joy*, Amen.

I hope that you and your family have a pleasant weekend - the last one of what has seemed like the longest January ever!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mariella Ardron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mariella Ardron
Principal