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Dear Parents

I am sure you are all aware that the Prime Minister made some significant announcements last night and this has required a response from school. From this point school will be closed to all students except those who need to attend because their parents are critical workers or they are identified as vulnerable, i.e. they have an Education and Health Care Plan or have a Social Worker. Schools are closed until at least the February half term

I'd like to address the main three issues that I assume parents are asking questions about:

1. What will remote learning look like for the period of school closure?
2. What if my child doesn't have a laptop or tablet?
3. What is happening with Y11 and Y13, and their exams?

Remote learning

We had already shared our plans for online provision next week for the majority of year groups. We no longer have Y11 or Y13 students attending school but we will continue to use the same approach for all lessons during this period of school closure. This involves a 3-part lesson that builds on best practice in remote learning but also address some of our key learning from the first lockdown so that:

- Students have regular access to their teachers to frame their learning and follow a structure or routine, i.e. their timetable
- There is an opportunity for 'live' lessons using Google Meet
- There is a time for students to engage in individual activities
- Teachers provide a brief review to address any questions or misconceptions

So, from Monday 11 January 2021 students can expect the following approach:

3-part online lesson structure for remote learning		
	Preferred approach	Fall back position*
Part 1: Teacher input 15-20 mins	Teachers use Google Meet to connect in real time with the class to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review any previous learning (Retrieval activity) • Set the context for the lesson • Provide explanations for student led activity • Provide any direct 	Teachers prepare a Screencastify video to act as an introduction to the student led activity



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	instruction/teaching	
Part 2: Student activity 20-30 mins	Teachers plan an activity or series of activities that follow on from the introduction. These activities should help to develop key knowledge and understanding.	
Part 3: Review and consolidation 5-10 mins	Teachers use Google Meet to briefly review student learning and answer any immediate questions. They may also signpost what the focus of the next lesson will be.	Teachers will share a class Google Doc that enables students to record any questions they have.
Lesson resources and materials	These will all be available on Google Classroom and easily accessible	

* We have a number of teachers who will also have to manage childcare whilst working from home therefore the option of preparing in advance Screencastify videos and Google Docs (for review) for some lessons is to enable them to follow a similar lesson format for the purposes of consistency whilst at the same time providing them with some much needed flexibility.

We also plan for Form Tutors to host a weekly Google Meet with their tutor group. Pastoral Leaders will be in touch to confirm these arrangements in due course.

<p>Timings of the day</p> <p>During the period of school closure there is no need for split breaks and lunches therefore we will revert to the usual timetable timings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lesson 1 - 9.15am ● Lesson 2 - 10.15am ● Break ● Lesson 3 - 11.35am ● Lesson 4 - 12.35pm ● Lunch ● Lesson 5 - 2.25pm
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Chromebooks

You should have received communication from me this morning with a link to a Google Form so that you can request a Chromebook. We have already received over 100 requests and are more than happy to accommodate all requests. Please note that you will not receive a reply from school but can assume that once the form has been submitted you can call into school to collect the device. If you missed the link to the Google Form it is here <https://forms.gle/NFHCgHFuuGZFozw76> .

Y11 and 13 exams

The announcement last night stated that, *'In these circumstances, we do not think it is possible for exams to go ahead fairly this summer. The Secretary of State for Education will be asking Ofqual to consult rapidly on an approach for alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.'*



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At this early stage, we know that all GCSE and A-level exams have been cancelled although it is impossible to know exactly what is being proposed in its place. Gavin Williamson MP is due to make a statement about alternative assessments tomorrow. Once he has done so we will need to give due consideration to how we respond, however, my advice to all Y11 and Y13 students is that they need to continue to focus on their studies and engage in their live lessons. It seems likely that we will need to carry out a series of internal assessments to support any Centre Assessment Grades therefore it is essential that students in these year groups maintain the focus they have shown since returning to school in September.

I know this is a lot of information to take in but trust that it helps to answer some of your more immediate questions and provides some reassurance about our approach to remote learning over the remainder of this half term. As information emerges in respect of GCSE and A-level exams I will be back in touch with you.

Yours sincerely

Kieran McGrane
Headteacher

