



Head's Up!

Dear Parents and Carers

Remote Learning

I hope you and your families are well and thank you all for your continued support with remote learning, of the school and of your children. We are extremely grateful for all you are doing.

As you will no doubt be aware, we have made many changes and improvements to our remote learning policy which can be found here: [Remote Learning Policy](#), and to how we are delivering remote learning during this most recent period of national lockdown.

We are, as ever, keen to continue to improve our practice and provision, remote or otherwise. To help us with this we would be extremely grateful if you could take the time to answer our survey by clicking on the relevant link below. Completed surveys should be submitted by Friday 5th February:

[Year 7 Parent/carer survey](#)

[Year 8 Parent/carer survey](#)

[Year 9 Parent/carer survey](#)

[Year 10 Parent/carer survey](#)

[Year 11 Parent/carer survey](#)

[Year 12 Parent/carer survey](#)

[Year 13 Parent/carer survey](#)

To support with remote learning and to ensure all our students have access to the IT equipment and resources they need, we have made considerable time and financial investment in over 100 new chromebooks and internet access. If however, you are still struggling or having problems, are accessing work via a phone, or having to share devices with a sibling, please let us know.

GCSEs and A Levels

You may have seen that the Government has published a consultation document regarding the arrangements for this year's GCSE and A Level examinations. The consultation closes on 29th January and can be found here:

[Consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021](#)

We will be responding as a school and would urge parents and carers, particularly those of Year 11 and Year 13 pupils, to share their views. What is clear is that the DfE will be taking an evidence based approach, so it is crucial that Year 11 and 13 pupils continue their learning and keep working to the best of their ability.

On Site Provision

We continue to support and supervise a small number of students in school every day. The government advice is still to keep children at home if you can and if at all possible. Thank you for your support with this. We all want pupils to return to school as soon as possible but we also know that having pupils in school increases community transmission, directly and indirectly, particularly with the new more infectious variant which came to light last term.

We have successfully set up our Lateral Flow Test centre. Our school gym now looks very different. In line with government advice we are now testing staff twice a week and students once a week. The daily testing of close contacts has now been suspended. Instead, if we do get a positive case then all close contacts will now be sent home, like before, to self-isolate for ten days.

It is fair to say that there has been more unhelpful speculation over the weekend, this time about when schools might reopen to more pupils, and whether or not vaccinating teachers will accelerate this process. Yesterday, Matt Hancock said he hoped pupils would indeed return to school after half term, but he cannot promise that at this stage. Gavin Williamson has pledged that we shall all get two weeks' notice of when pupils are returning. As soon as we know, I will let you know.



Best wishes
Adrian Rees
Head of School

