

Dear Parents

I hope that you are keeping well. Further to my email of earlier today, where I attached an overview of our plans for the rest of the term, I am writing to provide more information on our plans for Key Stage 3 pupils.

In line with government guidance, the school has remained open for children of critical workers and for vulnerable children since the lockdown began in March and we have recently started with our plans to reintegrate Year 10 and Year 12 pupils into school, which will continue in the coming weeks. This week, the government also made a brief statement that said **"We know that secondary schools are keen to invite pupils in other year groups in for a face-to-face meeting before the end of this term, where it would be beneficial. As long as this happens in line with wider protective measures guidance, and guidance on the numbers of pupils permitted on-site at any one time, we would encourage this where possible."** We are therefore committed to making this happen before the end of term and are planning for pupils and parents to come in for meetings with tutors in the week commencing the 6th July. In accordance with government guidance, we are constrained in terms of the total number of children we can have on site at any one time and, as you will have seen from the overview, the Key Stage 3 tutor check-ins need to be scheduled around the other year groups who are coming in to school. Each tutor will be allocated one day in that week when they will be in school and you will be sent information about what day that is, asking you to select a convenient time for you as soon as we can. Should the tutor not be able to attend in person, we will offer you an alternative staff member to meet if you wanted to come in for a face to face meeting or the tutor will contact you on Microsoft Teams for a video call. You can also select a telephone call if you prefer.

In the meantime, home learning will remain the main source of education and will continue to be in place for these year groups for the remaining weeks of term. Based on parental feedback, the format for this will remain as one task per subject (2 for English, Maths and Science in Year 9) set on Show My Homework on Monday and due on Friday each week. Pupils can then decide on their own timetable for completing the tasks that works best for them; although our advice is for them to schedule 3 to 4 tasks a day, which spreads the workload through the week and alleviates the stress of having too much to do at the end of the week.

We are happy that many of our staff have been able to supplement this home learning plan by hosting live lessons with their pupils and we are aware that the number of live lessons has increased in the past month. We have asked teachers to continue this trend and try to provide more live lessons to Key Stage 3 pupils (if this is possible for them) and, based on feedback from teachers and pupils, we have reviewed our live lesson guidelines to make this more straightforward. As part of this review, we have sought guidance regarding our safeguarding regulations and been able to amend these in order to turn on the pupil cameras on Microsoft Teams so the teachers have the benefit of reading their pupils' faces and the pupils can see each other. There will be a number of expectations for pupil behaviour to enable this to happen, which will be shared with the pupils if they are invited to attend a live lesson. Pupils will retain the option to turn off their cameras for live lessons if this makes them more comfortable.

In addition to this, we have asked tutors to host a live tutor time with their tutees once a week if they are able to do this. This would not be to teach any of our Successful Lives curriculum but would be a check in/catch up and to enable tutees to see each other regularly. We have also asked tutors to liaise with their tutees about how we can celebrate successes from the year, both from when we were in school and since lockdown began. We have been inundated with good news stories from our pupils showing us the variety of ways they have continued to both learn and support their

communities in these unprecedented times and we think it is important to share and celebrate these amongst our year group communities. Year 8 and Year 9 pupils have already been invited to a Teams event for this purpose and Mr Winter will be in touch soon regarding the Year 7 celebration.

A number of parents have been in touch with us to express that they would like more personalised feedback from teachers on the home learning tasks pupils have submitted. We have encouraged this with our teachers and provided some guidance on good practice to enable this to happen. Hopefully, you will see an increase in the amount of personalised feedback to children in the coming weeks through emails or Show My Homework. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers directly if you want to share any additional thoughts on this.

We recognise that this continuation of home learning is frustrating for many of you and we will continue to be guided by the Department for Education about when and how this may be lifted for all year groups in the future.

With thanks for your ongoing support in these difficult times.

Kind regards

Lisa Percy

Headteacher