

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## **Remote Learning, Public Examinations and Assessment**

Dear students, parents and carers,

Once again welcome back. It's definitely been an unusual way to start the new term, but we want to say a huge well done on adapting to your remote learning. Continuing your curriculum remains our priority right now, as we start this new term. We appreciate your efforts and engagement as we all find our new way of working. In just 4 days, you received 23,292 positives on ClassCharts and we are so proud of how well you are adapting to remote learning.

### **Remote Learning**

Teachers are working hard to provide high quality remote learning to continue your progression through the curriculum. We want to make sure we are providing you with the right support to help you learn at home. Please refer to the following 'FAQs' documents for technical support while accessing your remote lessons on Teams and resources on our other platforms, such as Showbie. It is particularly important that you ensure you have enabled all updates on your iPad so you can use the new features on Microsoft Teams; you will find how to enable updates in the FAQs document.

We continue to track engagement with online work and monitor attendance to live lessons through ClassCharts so please ensure that you are attending all lessons on time and meeting deadlines with work. There are now three buttons that your teachers will use to monitor your attendance at live lessons, your engagement with the work and your behaviour. Since we are unable to be with you face-to-face, we have a duty of care to monitor your engagement. We will of course continue to use the many positives to reward your hard work and effort, as is always the case.

Please also see the attached Code of Conduct for remote learning. Teachers and students have a shared responsibility to establish and maintain a positive and supportive online learning environment so please read it carefully. We know the vast majority of you are already meeting these expectations, so thank you.

### **Public Examinations, Mock Examinations and Common Assessment Tasks**

On 6<sup>th</sup> January, we listened to the Education Secretary announce that "GCSE, A Level and AS Exams will not go ahead this summer" and that these will be replaced by "teacher assessed grades", though we are still waiting to hear what this process will look like for schools across the country. We can understand that this will create confusion, anxiety and disappointment for many of you, but please rest assured that we will do all that we can to ensure there is a fair and consistent process that follows the guidance we expect to receive. Our intention is that we give you several opportunities to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding over the new few months both in common assessment tasks set by your teachers, as well as in more formal, controlled conditions when you are able to return to school. You will of course receive plenty of notice before any formal assessments take place so that you are able to prepare.

As you know, we took the decision to cancel the year 11 mock examinations that were due to take place this term. We understand that you have worked very hard over Christmas with revision and last term in your lessons and please be assured that your efforts will not be wasted. This is excellent preparation for any routine assessment tasks you may complete as part of your planned curriculum. Please expect assessment tasks to take place as normal while learning remotely so that you gain opportunities to practise applying your knowledge and skills.

We have also asked your teachers to plan practice 'common assessment tasks' for year 11 from 18<sup>th</sup> January within your lessons and, of course, your teachers will give you time to prepare as is always the case. These common assessment tasks are **not** intended to be mock examinations by any means and as such you will **not** receive grades for these tasks, since they are intended merely as an opportunity to practise. You may receive percentages or raw scores to help you see how you are doing across your subjects and you will receive feedback to help you to improve and continue to make progress. The purpose of these tasks is for you to know where your learning and revision focus should be, and for your teachers to use these tasks to

inform their teaching and curriculum sequence. During this online period we need to maintain our focus on assessment for *learning* rather than on learning for assessments.

The most important thing for you to think about right now is continuing with your curriculum across all subjects by engaging with remote learning, working hard and looking after your wellbeing. The main thing we can all be certain on is that you will be continuing your syllabus in every subject this year which will of course help you progress into future study.

For now, the message is what it has always been: please look after your wellbeing. We want you to be happy, productive, work hard and enjoy your learning. For advice on how to practise self-care, please refer to the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit which can be found on Showbie (in your 'Personal Development Folder', see: 'A Guide to Well-being'). You will receive a further communication about the Personal Development opportunities that are open to you during this remote period. Please also refer to our Covid Support and Resources section of our school website [here](#).

We look forward to writing to you again. For now, continue your hard work and stay safe.

Kind regards,

**Mrs Capstick**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

**Ms Gemma Cloughton**  
**Deputy Headteacher**