

To: all parents/carers

22 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to thank you for all the work you are doing to ensure your child is continuing to work hard and focus on their learning under such difficult circumstances.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank staff who are working equally hard to adapt resources and teaching to ensure students do not miss out on their education, including support staff who are tackling a whole new set of challenges in getting a testing regime set up and operational.

Regarding lateral flow testing, yesterday we completed our first set of tests on key worker students and staff. We will complete further tests on Monday 25 January. This is the first stage of the process which will enable us to establish if we have any students or staff in school who are asymptomatic with a high viral load. We can then ask them to take a PCR test and self-isolate. We will review this trial testing with governors on Friday 29 January so that we have a robust system when all students return. We will write to you nearer the time to seek your permission. To date all tests have been negative.

The Government has now paused the second type of testing which would have been due to take place if students were in close contact with a positive case in school. The Government has concerns regarding the level of the virus and transmission of the new variants. This means that students will still need to self-isolate if they are a close contact.

I realise the concern of many parents about the engagement of their children and the challenges of motivation, as well as navigation through the on-line learning platforms. Research shows that live lessons are not the most effective manner of learning and so we have asked staff to provide a variety of materials. Heads of Department and Faculties have reviewed the provision and are working closely with colleagues to support them to manage this. Our SEN team is available - making calls, emailing and providing more straightforward links - to support students who are finding this difficult. Even if your child is not SEN and you would like support to navigate the learning and be provided with guidance please contact your child's form tutor, Head of Year or Mr Hyett who will be able to direct you to the correct areas.

We will be running a report each week to check engagement with the platform and would really ask for your support in providing a routine so that students still work through their day of lessons and submit their work so that we can be sure of their understanding and adapt our curriculum accordingly.

As Mr Yassin has informed you, the consultation is open regarding Year 11 and Year 13 exams. I would urge you to respond to this if you can so that you can give your opinion on how the results/assessments should be managed. It is yet another very unsettled time for exam-year students but please let us know if they need emotional support which we are continuing to offer.

We are also working very hard behind the scenes to provide careers advice and guidance should your child need support, including a wide range of activities to keep our community safe and supported.

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Form tutors will be in regular contact and we are hoping the Monday check-in will prove beneficial for students' well-being and engagement.

I have listed below the activities that we are providing. If you feel your family would benefit, please contact us if it has not already been offered to you and we will try to help:

- form tutors calling home
- live form time on a Monday form from next week
- weekly remote assemblies
- weekly newsletter
- issue of 61 laptops
- continuation of celebrating success by identifying positives for the week
- form time resources folders created and updated weekly
- well-being booklet updated and recirculated to students
- remote well being sessions recorded
- 'Lockdown Liveners' Enrichment Programme
- Yoga & Mindfulness practice in school for each group – being recorded and sent to students studying at home to take part
- ICT helping those who are having technical issues
- Student ICT support sessions are being set up in bubbles to get students in for a day to show them how to access Teams/emails etc
- key worker workshops in school to help with anxiety and well being
- online workshops for students identified as struggling with anxiety, organisation etc.
- Positive Futures Protect programme run by NCCSF with the support of Norfolk's Police Crime Commissioner's office and social services - 19 families signed up – 15 attended first session
- developing a programme for the Elfs so they can work with Year 7 students
- contacting students who have not engaged in learning/logged onto the system and offer support and guidance
- HOY have contacted all parents regarding the collection of printed work
- behaviour support plans reviewed and revised
- targeted well-being calls
- presentation for Parent Forum on well-being for parents and students during lockdown
- monitoring and recording of bereavements via CPOMs so support can be implemented
- contacting daily all long-term absences and shielding students
- personal care packages for struggling families
- online apprenticeship and training assemblies delivered remotely for sixth form
- Sixth Form Leadership Team Kahoot weekly form quiz sent to students; scores shared for this term's prize
- UCAS remote support for applicants
- HAS scheme and other progression opportunities/ sign up e-mailed to students
- Year 11 applicants to sixth form receiving remote Zoom interviews to maintain personal connection alongside bespoke advice about progression.

We have yet to receive any notification as to whether the school is expected to be open for front line NHS staff during the half term break. As soon as I receive any information I will let you know.

I really hope you and your family remain safe and well and I look forward to a day when we can meet in person again as a community.

Yours faithfully



Ms C Dallas  
Headteacher