



5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

While yesterday's news of another national lockdown is disappointing, given the recent rise in cases and the increased transmission rate of new Covid variant, it is not unexpected. When we met with staff yesterday morning, we discussed the likelihood of today's announcement and have put plans in motion to significantly improve the home learning experience for our students.

From today until February half term the only students who will be on site are the children of key workers and those who are vulnerable.

This week, all students will have access to online learning on Microsoft Teams with Year 11 having live online lessons following their usual timetable. From Monday 11th, all lessons will be live streamed to all students using Microsoft Teams.

Last term your child was shown how to access their class Teams pages but additional guidance is available on our website and will also be sent out via the MyEd App.

We know this is not ideal, however it provides the best alternative to a face-to-face teaching experience.

Attendance will be taken for each live online lesson to ensure your child is engaging in their home learning and we will continue with our pastoral welfare calls to offer as much support as we can.

Students can access their online lessons by using a mobile phone/tablet or PC. They will also need to have a pen and a piece of paper to hand. Whilst they do not need a web cam /microphone, they can use these if they are available, but should blur the background. Students can listen to their teacher's input and ask questions by typing them into the chat.

If you are struggling with access to technology, please get in touch with your child's head of year to let us know. We have a small number of sim cards, laptops and tablets that can be loaned if internet access is an issue.

We do not yet know what the full implications are in terms of the cancellation of Year11 exams, or what will replace them, but we will keep you fully informed as we learn more. The announcement we received this morning stated that next week's vocational exams will still go ahead. We will send separate communication once we receive further updates from the exam boards.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Maw
Headteacher