



Tuesday 5 January 2020

Dear Parent

## **National Lockdown**

You will be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement that a new national lockdown will come into force at midnight this evening. I am writing to update you as to what this means for your child.

## **Access to Learning**

**During the period of national lockdown, schools will remain open to vulnerable children\* and children of critical workers\*. All other students will remain at home and access their learning remotely.** This has been put in place until February half term.

\*Please see the link enclosed for guidance on vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

Students attending school will follow normal routines, with no changes to the structure of the school day or uniform expectations, including face coverings. We will continue to follow our coronavirus procedures in school to ensure students are kept safe.

Students learning remotely will follow their normal timetable and access lessons through Microsoft Teams, as detailed in yesterday's letter from Mrs Ingham. If you did not receive this letter, or require further support accessing remote learning, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year.

One of our current priorities is to ensure all students have access to appropriate technology to access Microsoft Teams remotely. If you have requested equipment through the previously shared questionnaire, you should by now have been contacted by the school with a time to collect this. If you have not been contacted by now, please contact your child's Head of Year and we will support you. If you did not complete the questionnaire, but require support, please contact your child's Head of Year and we will request additional equipment for you.

## **Examinations**

Public examinations scheduled to take place in the January window are to go ahead. This means that:

- **Year 10 and Year 11 students taking their Travel & Tourism examination on Friday 8 January** will attend school on that day from 8.30am to 11.00am.
- **Year 11 students taking their Creative iMedia examination on Monday 11 January** will attend school on that day from 12.15pm to 2.45pm.
- Year 11 Health & Social Care, Engineering and Enterprise examinations in early February are planned to go ahead. We will contact students and parents to confirm exact timings.

- Students should access the site through their normal gates. We will continue to support preparation for all of these examinations through online classes and individual telephone check ins.

Year 11 mock examinations scheduled for next week will not go ahead as planned at this time. Instead, students should follow their normal timetable at these times. Further guidance on arrangements for mocks will follow once we have more information on the Government's intent for the summer.

We are awaiting guidance as to the plans for summer examinations. Ofqual are currently consulting on an approach for arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly and we will communicate these to you as soon as we know more. Be assured; whatever is decided, we will ensure our students remain supported throughout this time. What is certain is that students should continue to work hard and attend remote lessons as set out above – their steadfastness and diligence throughout this time will be rewarded in the long run.

### **Free school meals provision**

We will continue to provide free school meals for eligible families throughout this period. Please complete the questionnaire we shared previously to access this.

### **Thank you**

As always, your support is a fundamental part of ensuring our young people receive the education they deserve. Thank you for remaining positive and adapting with us to changing and challenging circumstances. I am confident that with your continued support we will continue to deliver a high quality of education throughout this time.

Yours faithfully



Mr B Driver  
Principal

Enclosed:

Guidance on critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>