

Parent Update

27 November 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

Many thanks to those of you who were able to complete the short survey on last week's S4-6 reports. The comments provided in the feedback are particularly helpful and have enabled us to take action in some specific areas. Mrs Bleach and Mrs Fleming have made a number of follow-up calls to parents and will continue to do so into next week as the survey closes today.

Understandably there were a number of concerns raised around the difficulties of continuing with learning when self-isolating and the impact this may have on the December assessments which begin next week. Please be assured that we are carefully tracking every individual child's COVID-related absences and have planned opportunities to mitigate against interrupted learning in the new year. I would also like to highlight that next month's assessments are not the only opportunity students will have to evidence their progress; we will hold a similar block closer to Easter. Students will receive their December assessment results and feedback in January and they are aware of this. Our hope is that this gives them the chance to take a well-earned rest over the Christmas holiday and come back recharged in January which I believe our young people need that this year more than ever before.

Following the increase in the number of students working from home over the past few weeks, we held some focus groups to ascertain what had and hadn't worked well for them. Overall they were very positive about the streamed lessons and felt these had been more beneficial to them and that they helped them to feel they were still part of the class lesson. They also felt that it was more helpful to have work posted on Teams during the day than added in the evenings as this sometimes made them feel pressured into working on it straight away rather than during the 'class time' the next day. This feedback has been shared with teaching staff. Staff will be sharing their experiences of this, including any technical issues, during the January in-service day.

The Parent Council met on Tuesday this week and much of the discussion was around supporting students during periods of home-learning. The next meeting will be on the 26th January and the most recent minutes can be found on the school website.

As always, I hope that you and your families stay safe and well.

Pauline Allison
Head Teacher

Reminder of Covid 19 Protocols

As you are aware, with the return of our pupils and staff to school, we have put procedures in to place that support all members of the school community if anyone displays symptoms of Covid 19.

A reminder that the symptoms are:

- High temperature or fever
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste

If a pupil displays symptoms, we will contact you to collect your child (please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details). **Pupils over the age of 16 may return home themselves.** The pupil should, if possible, wear a face covering en route and avoid public transport.

You will be asked to follow Test and Protect and we will provide you with a copy of the Test and Protect Leaflet and Step by Step Guide when your child is collected.

Information on the groups of children within the school, **and on school transport**, and the adults that each group of children come in to contact with will be collected. This is to fulfil legal responsibilities for public health and will allow Test and Protect to contact appropriate people in the event of a positive test result.

If anyone within your household tests positive for Covid 19, please do not send your child to school. Report their absence and the reason for this by calling PSA in the morning.