

Parent Update

22 January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, the Scottish Government announced this week that schools will remain closed to the majority of students and staff until the middle of February. Given this extension to the remote learning period and the feedback we have received from students, parents/carers and staff on what is and isn't working well for them, we will now look to make some minor changes to the home learning timetable. I will send further information on the changes to you and our students as soon as possible. Many thanks to those of you who have been able to respond to the survey issued this week. It will remain open until Friday 29 January should you wish to complete this.

Senior staff have been making contact with some students where their teachers highlighted concerns that they were not engaging in their subjects. They will continue to do this along with wellbeing check-ins throughout the remote learning period. Following the S4-S6 December assessments, teachers have been giving feedback to students on how to make improvements and the next stage of tracking reports for these year groups will be issued next week, enabling you to see these action points and discuss them with your child.

This week I joined a number of remote lessons and was delighted to see the high quality lessons that students are experiencing. Each lesson was different in the approach the teacher took and very much formed to meet the needs of the students in that particular class at that point in their learning. The resources used in the lessons were engaging, appropriately challenging and offered students the opportunity to go back to them at a later date should they find that helpful. I am incredibly proud of how well the teachers at Deans have worked to make the remote learning experience as interesting and accessible as possible for our students, despite how challenging this has been. I will continue to drop in on remote lessons from across the school over the coming weeks.

We have the first of our virtual parents' evenings approaching and details of the dates and how to sign up will be issued to you shortly.

I have attached some information around supports for health and wellbeing for your information. Should you have any concerns around your child's wellbeing or learning, please do get in touch either by phone (01506 282155) or email (wlddeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk).

Many thanks for your continued support during these challenging times and I hope that you and your families remain 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.