

05 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to the Government announcement yesterday we now expect to be remote learning until at least February half term. It is clear from the announcement that schools remain safe places for children and staff but the Government felt they needed to close schools to most students to minimise transmission and to avoid overwhelming our NHS.

Today, I have had positive feedback from teachers about the high levels of engagement from students and it is important that this continues. With so much missed learning time last year, your support is crucial to your child's success as we work through this half term. Thank you, once again, for your support.

Mr Beere, Assistant Headteacher, will be sending a letter tomorrow reminding you of processes and further support with remote learning which is available. Your child's mentor is your first point of contact if you have any concerns or issues accessing work. The mentor will also be making daily contact with their group either through email or Teams meetings.

Year 11 students will be concerned about the announcement yesterday stating that it is 'not fair for all exams to go ahead this summer' and 'alternative arrangements' being put in place. There is no detail from the Government, Department for Education or Ofqual on what these arrangements will be and I will share this with you once I have more information. Until then, we will continue assessing all students in all year groups as best we can.

I can assure all Year 11 students that the school's role in any process for awarding grades will be fair and based on their work completed until any identified deadline. It is imperative that students continue to fully engage with their teachers and always produce their very best work so that we have clear evidence of each student's highest levels of achievement.

Year 11 mock examinations were due to take place at the end of January. These will now take place soon after we return to school, so this period of time away from school will be well spent in preparing for the mocks.

As a school staff, we want to be in school with students; none of us sought a career sitting behind a screen. We love being in the classroom and around the school face to face with our students and hope that this period of lockdown can be safely eased as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hemmings'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Mr P. Hemmings  
Headteacher