

4 January 2021

Dear Parent and Student,

As promised, I write again today to reiterate some key information. I will continue to communicate with you regularly when there are updates as I fully appreciate how difficult it is when there is a changing situation and a lack of clarity. I know you appreciate that this fluidity and lack of clarity is not a school-based issue, it totally relates to, and reflects, the national context and the decisions that are being made by the Government.

So, for today, I detail below some key matters.

Critical Worker and Vulnerable Student provision

Tomorrow we welcome into school students who fall into this group of young people. All parents/carers should now be aware of whether their child has been registered for this provision. All should also now be aware of the timings of the day for our Critical Worker/Vulnerable Student provision. I shared this in my last letter to you which is also on our school website. Only those young people who are registered and whose parent/carer has received contact from us should attend tomorrow. When they arrive at school, they must adhere to social distancing instructions and first thing they will be asked to engage in a health and safety briefing so they fully understand what is required at this time when COVID infection rates have increased and there is a new variant of the virus prevalent in the community. We want to ensure that all members of our school community stay safe and well and therefore it is vital that some really important behaviours are explained and then adhered to.

From tomorrow remote teaching and learning will commence for our examination students in Years 11, 12 and 13

Our young people are expected to be online and will be required to follow their usual timetable, in line with the usual timing of their school day, and complete work as required by members of staff. The small number of students who do not have the necessary IT device at home currently will be contacted and arrangements made with families to enable their online access. In the interim, whilst this is being set up, they will be sent hard copy work to engage in. This has been addressed today so there should be little delay.

Protocol/Home-School Agreement with regards to engaging in online remote learning

Attached is a document which explains clearly our protocol with regards to online learning and which needs to be adhered to in order to support, enable and protect all. I ask that this is looked at closely and it is understood that this is an absolute requirement.

Tasks for students in Years 7 to 10 to engage in this week

In order to prepare all our young people for the term ahead, members of staff will be setting tasks for all to engage in this week who are in Years 7 to 10. These tasks will be uploaded onto our Google Classrooms and for those students who do not currently have online access at home, they will be posted a hard copy. It is expected that all will engage in these tasks this week.

Free School Meal Provision

For students who will be present in school this week, they will be able to receive their meals via our Restaurant as usual. For those who are at home, we will be in contact separately about the collection of hampers this week which our school meals provider will put together. As this situation does not apply to all, it was judged to be most helpful to communicate to relevant families separately. Please keep an eye out for this communication.

To conclude, if there is anything else we can assist with at this time, please do not hesitate to be in contact either via our enquiries' email address or via telephone on our Main Reception contact number. During school hours our Reception is open to receive calls.

Very best wishes,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on a light grey rectangular background.

Kathleen Higgins

Executive Headteacher