

**HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS**18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope all of our families are keeping well and managing this situation as well as we can. I also hope the last week of remote lessons have gone OK. We have continued to evolve the process; each lesson gives a bit more feedback and understanding. We thank all of our students and families for their continued patience and support.

***This week's updates are:***

**Live Lessons** – as you will know we are delivering live lessons for a substantial part of each week. This has required a massive upskilling for all of us (staff, students and families) and each day we learn a little more. Lessons are being well attended (some approaching 100%). Overwhelmingly students are actively engaged and participating. Over the next few weeks we will be seeking feedback from students and families about live events and distance learning which will be used to help shape it further. Please do give feedback when asked.

**Devices for Online Learning** – We have now issued nearly 200 of our devices to families who need support in getting online to access remote learning and live lessons. We have now exhausted our supply. However, a number of families have seen social media posts about helping schools with devices and have asked how they can help support the wider community. I therefore am including a link to a BBC Article about donating devices to schools.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5SqHJMTKZx5sYhlltXJvB1Q/give-a-laptop>

We have also registered with Business2Schools to accept donations <https://www.business2schools.com/donate> However, to simplify things we are more than happy to accept direct donations to Reception between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday. If you have a spare laptop, tablet device or anything you think could be used by someone else to access online learning then we will happily take it, wipe it of any data and re-home it to a family that could make use of it. If you still need a device at home to support then please do contact us and we will do everything we can to source one for you.

**Parents Evenings** – This term we were due to host Year 7 and Year 9 Parents Evenings. We have recently invested in a video conferencing system to enable these to move to be web based. We are not quite ready to roll it out but will be aiming to communicate new dates, times and plans for both of these evenings within the next few weeks. It is likely we will offer appointments across a period of a few days in the final week of term but will confirm in the next two weeks.

**Year 11 Exams** – further to previous communications information continues to be received on a regular basis. Although we have more insight into the proposed system for grades there is still much we are waiting on from Ofqual and the DfE. When we have insight into the final system we will send specific communications and put together some “What does it mean” videos specifically for Year 11 students and families. Watch out for these from Miss Barnes and Mrs Williams. However, it is clear from the information received that, unlike last year, teachers will not be asked to submit their final grades for students until the **end** of the course (June). There will also be further exams and assessments which will be mandatory in forming the evidence for those final exams. It is therefore vital that all Year 11 students continue to fully attend their lessons, engage in all work set and maintain regular engagement with their teachers.

**On site corona virus testing** – we have settled into a rhythm of testing for staff and students regularly attending site. There was an article in the Guardian last week about the regulator not approving the use of testing in schools. The DfE have



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clarified that this article was not accurate and that the LFD system is approved for use in the format being used in schools. We still wait for further clarity on potential testing on re-opening of schools and I will update further if anything changes.

**E-Safety Newsletter** – last week I included a link to some online webinars around e-safety for parents. Miss Hooper, our E-Safety lead in the Academy has produced this newsletter about E-Safety. Please do take a moment to have a read when you can <https://bristolmetropolitanacademy.clf.uk/wp-content/uploads/E-Safety-Parent-and-Carer-Newsletter-Jan-21.pdf>

Until next time please stay safe and look after each other.

Best wishes,

Mr C Shaw  
Principal



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### **Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Office 365**

**Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.**

#### **Xbox**

1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot (less than £10 from Amazon)
2. Go in to my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Type in [Office 365](#) and log in as you would in school
5. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
  - Word
  - Excel
  - PowerPoint
  - Teams
  - Your emails
6. To move around you use the Xbox controller or plug in a mouse

#### **PlayStation**

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type in [Office 365](#) and log in as you would in school
6. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
  - Word
  - Excel
  - PowerPoint
  - Teams
  - Your emails

