

## HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I know I normally write on a Monday with the weekly update but given last night's Government announcement(s) I thought it prudent to write today.

**Extension of Lockdown** – As you will likely have seen by now, the PM last night announced an extension to the current lockdown of 3 further weeks minimum. That means that the earliest that lockdown would be lifted is 8<sup>th</sup> March. It seems likely that there will be a staggered reopening of businesses after the lockdown lifts and of course there is continued uncertainty that this will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Continued 'closure' of schools** – You will also likely have seen that the PM announced that the current closure of schools to the majority of students will be extended for the first 2 weeks of next term. That means that the *earliest* we will now expect a full re-opening to all students will be *Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March*. Of course there is continued uncertainty on whether that date will be pushed further, whether we will have a staggered return of year groups, whether we will have a system of mass testing before return along with a number of other questions. Currently schools only have the same information given at yesterday's press briefings so I cannot confirm any further information. As more information is confirmed in coming weeks we will of course communicate this to our community.

One thing we are being asked of by the Government is to continue to support the agenda of as many young people who can stay at home safely to do so. We are seeing a growing number of requests for young people to access site each day. Whilst we appreciate that these young people fit the criteria for being legally allowed to attend site it is worth noting that the Government has updated their guidance to ask that even children of critical workers stay at home if it is safe for them to do so. We know that children learning and working from home gets increasingly difficult the longer the lockdown continues but we thank you in advance for your support in reducing the numbers leaving home to attend site in the hope that this speeds up our exit from the current lockdown. Of course any student who needs to attend site to enable safe learning will be accommodate as much as possible so please do continue to communicate any needs to the pastoral teams and we will continue to utilise our capacity to the best of our abilities.

**Upcoming Parents' "Evenings"** – we were due to have a Year 7 evening tonight and a Year 9 evening on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February. We have invested in new online software to enable us to move these events virtual. It is taking an amount of set up in the background so we couldn't get it ready in time for Year 7 tonight. We are therefore aiming for:

Year 7 – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Year 9 – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February (as planned)

Exact details, once confirmed, will be communicated to families with children in these year groups to enable you to book your appointments. If successful we will then use the same system for evenings planned for next term until such time as we can move back to traditional evenings.

**Feedback Surveys (All Year Groups)** – we have sent around surveys to students and parents to get feedback on how we can further improve and adapt the current situation of distance learning. Students will find a link in their email inbox and for parents you can complete it [here](#). Thank you for those who completed it yesterday. Already we are using the information returned to consider how we can change the amount of time students have to spend in front of screens and will communicate further changes when we can.



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**Transition Survey (Year 7 Families Only)** – as a Trust we are trying to gather feedback from our Year 7 students on their (somewhat strange time) transition from Year 6 to Year 7. Please could I ask for as many of our Year 7 students, with support of a parent/carer, to complete this survey? It should only take 2 minutes and can be found [here](#) and will help shape the next cohort's transition plan.

Unless there is further information in the next 48 hours I probably won't write on Monday as I am conscious of flooding your inboxes at what must be a busy enough time for our community. Of course should there be important updates or information then I will communicate. If not then I will write again the final week of term.

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

