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5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will no doubt be aware, the Prime Minister announced last night that schools will be closed until at least February half term with only the most vulnerable students and the children of key workers attending School. All other students will be accessing remote learning from today. The students have been shown how to access the work and have also been sent reminders about this via their school email. Can you please remind your child that the instructions have been sent to their school email, if they are still unsure about what to do.

Students are expected to be online at the time of the lesson. There will be **no** tutor registration set up, so the first lesson will start at 9:20a.m. and the rest of the day will follow the timings below:

Period 1 - 9:20a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Period 2 - 11:20a.m. to 1:00p.m.

Period 3 - 1:55p.m. to 3:35p.m.

It is compulsory for all students to attend school albeit remotely. The students have been directed to register for every lesson by accessing the 'task' on itslearning. We have a team of staff who will be monitoring this in school from today, so it is extremely important that your child completes the registration at the start of every lesson. This will not only support our safeguarding procedures, but also help us to monitor engagement with the work throughout this period. If your child fails to register for lessons on any given day we will of course be in touch – initially this will probably be a standard text message to notify you with a follow up telephone call for persistent non-attenders.

The Prime Minister also announced last night that Summer examinations will once again be cancelled this summer. This does not however mean that students in Year 11, 12 and 13 have now left school! Students in these year groups must continue to register for every lesson and complete the work set. Obviously, the trial examinations scheduled over the next few weeks will not take place, but once students return to school, we will almost certainly be running internal examinations. The key thing is that students remain positive, don't panic and continue to access and engage with lessons. At this point in time we do not know how examination grades will be calculated but providing students continue to work hard they will achieve the results they deserve.

There is a Year 10 BTEC Sport External Exam scheduled for January 22nd. At this point, it is unclear whether this will take place. We are working on the assumption that it will and students taking this subject need to prepare accordingly under the guidance of their PE teacher. We will keep students and parents posted, once we know more.

Because schools are now closed, we will also be postponing our plans for mass testing until, closer to the time, students are scheduled to return. We will, however, start weekly testing for both staff and for those students currently in school, hopefully sometime next week. If your child is currently attending school, we will be in touch soon with further details and to ask for parental/carers consent. Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help us roll out our testing programme, again we will be in touch shortly with details of training and potential test dates.

Can I take this opportunity to once again thank you for your ongoing support and as always if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best Wishes and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Cleary', enclosed within a blue oval shape.

Stuart Cleary

Acting Headteacher