

AWF/NPM

29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As promised, I will keep you updated on a fortnightly basis to ensure our community is fully aware of everything that is taking place during the lockdown period. Like you, I was pleased to hear that the potential date for school reopening (Thursday 8th March) is in the not so distant future. We will approach this with both optimism and caution and I will ensure that you are updated once I receive a clearer picture from the DfE.

Thank you to the significant amount of parents/carers who completed our recent survey. Receiving your feedback, both developmental and positive is really important to us. As mentioned previously, we are passionate about delivering a strong quality of education and realise that we will need to continuously adapt and improve to allow us to move forward. I have collated some of the generic responses below and added our actions, so you are aware of what we are doing:

| Parental Feedback | Academy Response |
|--|---|
| Teams is slow/lagging/glitching and the chat function is unavailable | Unfortunately, some of this is out of our control and can be a particular issue with Microsoft on the day. We have worked with our IT provider to ensure everything is functioning from our end and any functionality issues have been addressed. We believe this has improved over the first four weeks. |
| The screen time in a day is too long | A very valid point for both staff and students. We have taken this on board and lessons have been reduced to 45 minutes to allow students and staff a 15-minute break between each lesson. |
| Occasional disruption through mics and chats | Staff training has been put in place to ensure this is addressed immediately in a particular lesson and that learning is not impacted upon. Heads of Year and RSLs are contacting home for any student involved in disrupting learning. |
| More interactivity in lessons | As an Academy we are working hard on developing teaching via teams. We are running regular weekly CPD for staff focusing on dynamic teaching online. A variety of interactive platforms are being used which has improved key components such as pace and differentiation. |

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|--|
| All | More feedback to students | End of unit assessments will run as normal via remote learning; all students will receive feedback on these. Assessment weeks will run as calendared and feedback will be provided via their written report. Staff are also working on numerous different functions which will allow them to provide students with instant feedback in a lesson. |
|-----|---------------------------|--|

students have been provided with a home learning pack as promised. We will monitor this provision over the coming weeks and will decide if an update is needed after February half term.

We realise from conversations with families that some students are struggling to self-regulate and keep a strong routine in place during these difficult times. It is important that all students are getting a good night's sleep and are up and ready for learning for 8.45am. If this is not being adhered to, students will find it even more difficult to engage in their learning after the lockdown period. We are currently planning on running some parent/carer workshops, over the next couple of weeks, to support all our families with home learning.

Our mass testing procedures are still taking place on a weekly basis for students and staff in the academy. We will await further government guidance on the next steps when all students are back in the academy.

It is important that we continue to build momentum over the coming weeks. This is not a time to switch off or become complacent; we must continue to work together to ensure all students are engaged in their home learning and are getting the best possible learning experience during the lockdown period.

Please continue to stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



A Fitzgibbon
Principal