

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we have made it to the end of week 1! I am hoping that everyone is still bearing up and that life hasn't proved to be too difficult in the light of the measures which are now in place around us all. Could I ask you to please pass on a huge well done to all our students who have actively engaged with their learning this week? We held our first 'virtual staff meeting' this morning and everyone was is good form, with lots of positive stories about the learning curve which staff have been going through this week (never mind the students) as well as recalling some of the delightful interactions that have been had with students too. We have been incredibly impressed and despite the challenges, it has felt like a very positive start.

Microsoft Teams

In the background, our IT team have been busy responding to queries and helping to get Microsoft Teams set up for all our learners across the school. We originally prioritised exams classes, then moved to Years 10 and 11, but we are now delighted to say that all our KS3 students have now been added as well. As staff and students grow in confidence with their use of Teams, students will be encouraged to get involved in some live lessons, chat with their teacher and classmates, as well as being able to access learning resources etc. Between Monday and Wednesday this week we achieved the following:

- 8,070 messages through chat
- 764 channel messages
- 150 1:1 calls
- 340 active users
- 200 connections via iOS, 112 connections via Windows, 93 on Android and 16 on a Mac!

That's quite impressive considering the fact that we only introduced Teams to staff and students in the last couple of days before closure.

Interim Assessments

Your child's Interim Assessment for the Spring term should now be available for you to view through Edulink. Please have a look to see the progress that has been made over the course of the last term.

Free School Meals

For all our children who are in receipt of Free School Meals, our voucher system is now up and running for your supermarket of choice.

Exercise books

Just a reminder that we have collated all our children's exercise books should they be required. Just let us know if you would like to collect them (could be part of the daily exercise) and we will ensure they are available for collection any time between 9.30am and 2.30pm next week.

 $\mathit{Inspiring Individuals} \cdot \mathit{Empowering Minds} \cdot \mathit{Defining Futures}$

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I think that's all of the updates for now – please do get in touch as needed. I hope you all manage to have an enjoyable weekend and we will be in touch again next week, hopefully with an exam update.

Kind regards,

LOTA Watterson

Miss Lyndsay Watterson Headteacher