



17th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: 'Early preparations' (November 2020)

Recent weeks have seen an increased number of our students being required to self-isolate and therefore work from home. As such I thought it prudent to clarify a few things with you in this month's letter.

If your child is required to self-isolate, you should encourage your child to follow, as far as possible, their usual timetable; the work will be set on Google Classroom by the start of the timetabled lesson at the latest so students should check this as their first port of call. It is a good idea to check that your son/daughter has the relevant Google codes for all of their classes. If this is not the case, please contact their mentor who will have access to a list of all the codes for the school.

If a whole year group is sent home, as was recently the case for year 11, then the whole timetable will move online and teachers who are in school will teach live, remote lessons from their classrooms. In this scenario it is possible for us to ensure that all lessons have some live content. If only part of a class or year group is at home, it may be possible for the teacher to include some live or recorded content but we do not insist upon this as the logistics of teaching two different groups of students simultaneously can be tricky. There will, however, be high quality work set online in the Google Classrooms for every lesson.

If you have any problems accessing work for a student who is at home, or if you are struggling with IT equipment, please contact your child's mentor in the first instance and we can arrange assistance. If there is an issue with a specific subject then please ask your child to contact the teacher, either via email or using the Google classroom chat facility.

I recognise that these are very testing times and we are all doing our very best to cope with a rapidly changing situation. Our first priority is of course the safety of all students and staff, but we aim to reduce as far as possible the impact on learning of the current pandemic. We are therefore continuing to prepare for external examinations like all schools are currently doing in England. Examination Boards have a Special Consideration process which is still being clarified in the light of students affected by the pandemic. We will of course continue to follow the national guidance accordingly.

Christmas approaches and so as we all start to make early preparations for what we hope will be an opportunity to spend time with loved ones, I have to say that the staff and I remain incredibly grateful for your continued patience and support in these uncertain times.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Chris Bishop
Headteacher