

5 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Please read this letter carefully as it contains important information about arrangements for the end of this half term and the start of the next.

Survey Feedback

Thank you very much to those of you who completed our survey to review remote learning last week. Your feedback was very helpful. You told us your child is well supported by teachers and tutors and that for most the amount of work and screen time was working well. You also told us your child is able to access their remote learning through a device.

Some of you requested that live lessons are booked on Teams at the beginning of the week so parents can more easily plan out their child's week. Most subjects are now doing this and all subjects will do so from Monday, 8 February. Remember lessons taught, whether live or remotely supported, always follow your child's normal school timetable which can be viewed by you and them on the INSIGHT app. Some of you also said it is hard to keep your child motivated on the work. We know it's tough. There are some tips at the end of this letter that we hope will help. It is also important to enjoy this time with children at home and help them to make learning as fun as possible.

Wednesday, 10 February - Challenge Day

All students will start and end the day with a live session with their tutor. These will be scheduled on Teams – see the times below. There will be no live subject lessons. Instead, students will select from a menu of subject based well-being challenges away from screens focussing on Confidence, Contentment and Consideration.

8.30-8.45am: All students meeting live on Teams with tutors

2.25-2.45pm: All students meeting live on Teams with tutors for celebration and sharing of the day's achievements.

Thursday, 11 February - Student Review Day

No lessons on this day and no Key Worker School. Students all attend a 1 to 1 Teams meeting with their tutor to review their progress. Tutors will schedule these appointments on Teams by the end of Monday, 8 February. Parents are very welcome to sit with students and participate in these review appointments.

Friday, 12 February - INSET Day – No lessons.





Monday, 15 February to Friday, 19 February - Half Term

Monday, 22 February - Students return to remote learning or Key Worker School after the half term break.

Monday, 1 March to Friday, 5 March - Year 11 Testing Week

Year 11 students will complete tests for all subjects via live lessons on Teams with subject teachers. This will run in-line with their usual timetable. Additional revision will be set over the next few weeks so students can prepare. This testing will form an important part of the **evidence base** teachers will use to **recommend final GCSE grades** to exam boards. It is essential that all students take the tests.

We believe all Year 11 students are able to access their live lessons. If your child will have a problem doing so, please contact us by Monday , 22 February so we can support with making alternative arrangements to allow your child to sit these tests.

Finally, we are delighted that Park Community School students have been chosen to name a memorial woodland being planted by Portsmouth Water between Warren Park and Staunton Country Park. Next week's Challenge Day will officially launch a competition for our students. More information is available via this link:

<https://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk/2021/02/05/students-set-to-name-new-memorial-woodland/>

We hope you and your family manage to get some rest over half term. We look forward to seeing all students in their remote learning lessons after half term. As soon as we know about the timescales for a return to school we will be in touch.

Yours faithfully

Christopher Anders
Headteacher

Ella Capaldi
Head of School

Tips for parents to support remote learning

- ① Make sure your child has a **space** where they can work away from noise or distraction.
- ② **Establish a routine** - your child should be following their usual school timetable - help them stick to this and no more.
- ③ Encourage lots of **regular breaks** - time away from the screen and working is important. Make sure your child takes regular breaks and physically moves away from the screen or work space.
- ④ **Get outside** - make the most of daily exercise every day to get outside and enjoy the fresh air.
- ⑤ **Encourage** your child to join their live lessons and tutor times. This means they get live explanations from teachers and the chance to ask questions.
- ⑥ **Ask for help** if you need it - please don't suffer in silence. Some parents worry their child is doing too much, some that they aren't doing enough. You know your child best, so do what works for you. If you need further support email your child's tutor.