



Parent/ Carer Email

5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well.

Following the Government announcement last evening, you will be aware that for the remainder of this half term:

- Remote online learning will be provided to all students
- Only students deemed as vulnerable or as the children of critical workers can access the school site
- GCSEs will no longer take place in their current format and more information will follow.

I am aware of the challenges this decision will pose for some of our families, however I can confirm that we have already put into place procedures to enable us to maximise what we can do, as a school, to support each of our students during this time.

Online Learning – our previous experience of online learning has allowed us to successfully put in place a robust system to engage and help progress your son or daughter’s learning opportunities remotely. From this morning all our staff have been providing online lessons. Just to recap, you can find full details of how, as a parent, you can support your son or daughter via the attached guide. I have also included a copy of the student guide for your information. In addition, we will from week commencing 11 January, once again be operating our weekly tutor calls to see how both you and your son or daughter are managing. I am delighted by the response from our staff to ensure all students receive a full timetable of lessons remotely, including practical subjects like PE, where the expectation will be to do some form of physical activity. Should you have any ICT issues or concerns, please contact the school via ICTsupport@redruth.cornwall.sch.uk.

I realise that our online experience during the last lockdown was hugely successful because of your support, and can I once again ask you to ensure that your son or daughter is ready to engage in learning each and every day, and that they also complete the tasks for each lesson. They are of course able to communicate with their teacher regarding the tasks through Teams and Satchel. I will be looking to our dedicated staff to create interesting and challenging lessons, offer appropriate feedback and to identify students for rewards on the completion of their work.

Children of Critical Workers – the Government has identified a critical worker list so that their children, if needed to, can attend school; this can be viewed via this [link](#). For those students, and the students who are deemed vulnerable, the school will provide the opportunity for their learning on site where they will be following the online learning that has been set by their teachers. We will, from Monday 11 January, be operating an online booking system, and we will send you details of this by the end of this week.

Starting this morning, all staff and students with consent, on the school site have been tested for Covid-19 using the Government’s lateral flow test. This will also be the case for any student accessing the school for the first time. We will be testing students and staff at least once a week, as the testing programme has the potential to increase the safety of our students, staff and community.

All students coming into school will be required to wear full school uniform. From Monday 11 January, we are hoping to provide a lesson of physical education alongside their online learning, so it will be important for students to bring PE kit with them.

All students coming onto the school site, from tomorrow, will be required to enter the building using the main entrance only. Students will be expected to observe social distancing, wear a face covering, and to use the hand sanitiser on entry. There will be a member of senior staff present each morning to safely direct the students through the clearly marked entrance. The arrangements for packed lunches with the provision for free school meals students worked very well today, as did the opportunity for those wishing to buy lunch, to select and have it delivered to the classroom. If the weather permits us, we will be encouraging students on site to go outside for a break and during lunchtime, so please ensure they bring a suitable coat. School transport arrangements are in place to ensure students can access and leave school safely. All timings remain as per normal with the school open from 8.30am to students, and a staggered end of the day, depending on their year group.

Year 11 – the announcement regarding GCSEs for Year 11 does mean that there is now an increased importance and emphasis on Year 11 students completing online work and building towards assessments. It is imperative that they understand that if the school is asked to produce a centre assessed grade (CAG), which is yet to be confirmed, this can only be done on the basis of work done in class and online, mock and assessment results, and above all their attitude and effort to learning, which will guide us to producing a predicted grade. I am confident that our teachers can continue to provide challenging and useful learning which will not only lead to the right result for your son or daughter, but also link to their chosen further education or employment/ training choice in September. You will receive a separate letter with more details on our arrangements, including the parents' evening, to support you and your son or daughter through this period. We will of course update you when the full information regarding the Government's alternative to GCSE exams is published.

During this half term, we had planned a series of parents' evenings for Years 7-10 to start discussing progress and support for learning over the course of this year. I will now reschedule these to allow the teachers to take stock of this period of online learning, hopefully regather the students for face to face learning and arrange a meeting with yourselves to discuss, in some detail, both the impact of their learning so far and our plans to ensure your son or daughter reaches their full potential.

Finally, I can once again assure you of the school's complete commitment and resolve to ensure we do our best to support your son or daughter and yourselves. In turn, can I thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mr C Martin
Headteacher