

Letter to parents – Friday 22nd January

Remote Learning update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we arrive at the half way point of this half term I wanted to thank all our families for their support and hard work over the past three weeks. The move to working from home has presented challenges as families share equipment, spaces to work in and adapt to the role of teaching assistants, often while working from home. Students and families have risen admirably to this challenge and it is really appreciated.

Increasingly departments in the school are making greater use of the options offered by Microsoft Office 365 and it may be helpful to check in to Microsoft Teams and look at the calendar each day, as well checking Show My Homework. Some departments are using the assignments section of Microsoft Teams for setting and collecting in homework; this video clip explains how students can submit work on assignments:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/a030f78d-0190-4cba-a54c-30ef0b1f61f7>

The username for Microsoft 365 is the students' school email address and the password is the same as for the school network. If students are unable to attend a lesson which is being delivered 'live' on Teams, please could they let the teacher know.

A few teachers and parents have expressed concerns that students are using other social media such as HouseParty and Whatsapp at the same time as a 'live' lesson is taking place. While we understand that students want to connect with their friends, if parents and carers could talk to students about the importance of focusing on the lesson, putting phones to one side if possible, and not being distracted by other social media, it would be very much appreciated.

It is possible to message teachers either by email or through SMHW and this is often the best way to make contact with teachers. Sometimes these messages can come through late at night, we understand that for some students they may need to message at an alternative time to when the lesson is taking place if families are sharing equipment. Please be patient when waiting for replies as staff may be delivering lessons to other students, supporting the students in school or may work part time and not check emails every day.

Lastly if any families do have any IT equipment at home that they are no longer using and are able to donate, the following organisations have been shared. These organisations take donations of equipment and pass them to students in need of equipment. Links to these organisations are below.

[Donate Your Tech | Tech For UK](#)

[Business To Schools Initiative: Pages \(business2schools.com\)](#)

[Laptops For Kids \(l4fk.co.uk\)](#)

[The Great British Tech Appeal | Vodafone](#)

Many thanks again to all our families as we adapt to these new ways of working.

Kind regards, Catharine Forster, Deputy Headteacher