

Our commitment to our students during lockdown.

January 2021

Despite the challenging circumstances we find ourselves in, we are determined that our students are not academically disadvantaged or emotionally affected by the impact of Covid 19. We have long since anticipated the closure of schools in some form, and therefore began preparing for this in the summer through launching a training programme for staff in the use of Microsoft Teams.

From January 7th, staff have been delivering the full curriculum for all Key stages through live streaming. We firmly believe that students are able to learn from home more effectively if they adhere to a structured routine and maintain their relationships with their teachers. This being the case, we are maintaining the school's normal timetable, beginning with tutor time at 8.50am enabling pupils to maintain their daily prayer and experience a sense of community, followed by all five of their normal lessons. Registers will be taken at the start of each lesson and absence followed up, as usual.

We appreciate that online learning presents many challenges for both staff and students. In addition to accessing technology, the amount of sedentary screen time involved in this kind of work is worrying. For the wellbeing of both parties, we have therefore set the expectation that staff stream only for 45 minutes of each hour to allow for a movement break and preparation for the next lesson. Furthermore, as in the first lockdown, we are reserving one day a week for enrichment and catch-up so that pupils don't get overwhelmed. No live streaming will take place on this day. Rather, work will set on either Teams or on FROG for the morning lessons and optional fun activities will be set for students to enjoy in the afternoon. The day will change each week to avoid impacting the same subjects.

We have put a great deal of thought into how we deliver lessons to pupils. Depending on the subject and the lesson's position in the scheme of learning, staff might stream all or part of the lesson. We have asked staff to provide as much variety as possible as well as facilitating student collaboration through breakout rooms. Staff are familiar with a range of excellent online resources and will be fully utilizing these with students. We are mindful of not allowing students' reading and writing skills to weaken and are also committed to providing the same amount of assessments and feedback as was originally intended. Staff are working hard to keep abreast of the constant upgrades Microsoft Teams is installing and rest assured, students will benefit from these in the coming weeks and months.

In line with DfE guidance, we are offering in-school provision and support for children of critical workers and those who are deemed vulnerable. We have made personal requests to the families of all children with an Education Health and Care Plan to attend school during this period of remote learning. EHCP students who attend school will access the same live streamed lessons as their peers, but will be supported by Teaching Assistants. They will also have access to their regular intervention sessions, which will continue to be delivered by SEN staff and external agencies. All SEN pupils who do not attend on-site provision will be monitored to ensure they attend all lessons as timetabled and weekly checks will be made to assess their wellbeing. Where concerns exist, the school will work closely with families and seek support where necessary from appropriate external agencies.

Thank you to you as parents therefore, for working with us to ensure that your children are resilient and ready to learn. Together, we will safeguard their education throughout this pandemic.