

25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Re: Remote Learning**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start by sending my thanks to you for all you are doing to support your child/children during this period in which they are accessing their education remotely. Thank you also to those of you who have sent supportive and encouraging emails to the school. I am extremely proud of how all the teachers and operational staff have adapted so quickly and are offering such a high quality and coordinated approach to remote education.

I have written to you today to outline some changes we are making to enhance the home learning experience for students from years 7 to 11, also to inform you of some additional information regarding engagement summaries that we will be sending to you each week.

Last week, we conducted a Student Survey, and were pleased to see that almost all of our students are reporting that they have everything they need to be able to access their remote learning. The majority of those who said they had a barrier to learning identified 'lack of concentration' as the factor that was a challenge. In response to this, we have put together some suggestions on how you can support your child in working within a home environment for those who would like more guidance on this. You can find this on our website [here](#).

Students in year 7 to 9 fed back that they would like to 'see their teachers' faces' and would welcome the introduction of on-camera teaching. We have therefore taken the decision to introduce on-camera live teaching within some parts of selected key stage three lessons. Departments have decided upon how they can enhance the learning in their subject area best by incorporating this style of teaching. During the live on camera teaching, students will have their cameras and microphones switched off, but will be able to communicate with their teacher as normal through the messaging function. The students in years 7 to 9 will be given full instruction on how to participate within their tutor time session today. We would encourage students to follow their timetable as normal to be able to take an interactive role within these sessions, but should your child miss a section of the lesson that is delivered live on camera, a recording will be available after the lesson to view in the team.

Students in years 10 and 11 stated in their survey that they would like to turn on their microphones at times to be able to communicate with their teacher. In response to this request, we have now enabled this feature and it will be used within in some lessons. Once again, students will be made aware of this during tutor time today, with instructions and expectations being communicated. We are aware that there are some students who do not have access to a microphone on their device, so students will have the option of responding using the messaging function if this is the case.

In order to support and inform parents/carers further, we have devised an engagement summary report that will be sent home via e-mail weekly. Each week on a Friday (starting from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January), you will receive a summary statement for each subject that your child studies throughout the week. This will consider all of the lesson activities, including interaction in live lessons, completion of work set in assignments, and engagement with other activities that have been set by teachers (such as Hegarty Maths clips).

The tracker will be collated based on engagement from Friday to Thursday, to enable us to process the information and send a summary of the week to parent/carers on a Friday. For more detail on this, please see the document on our website [here](#).

As a school, we understand that it is a real challenge for some families to monitor their child/children's remote learning throughout the day, so we are hopeful that this information will be a useful tool in being able to support and encourage your child. Where concerns are reported, we are here to help to get students back on track. Whilst it is important to us that students are engaging with their work and making progress remotely, we also care very much about their wellbeing. Please continue to keep in touch with your child's form tutor if there are any factors you feel the school should know that are preventing them from engaging with lessons.

If you haven't already, please view our weekly newsletter Snapshot by clicking the link [here](#). It is great to see some of the students who have gone above and beyond expectations this week, being celebrated by their teachers.

I would also like to survey parents/carers to give you all the opportunity to feed back to us about your experiences of home learning. We would be particularly interested to know how you feel the remote learning experience is working for your child, in the light of the changes we are now making. Therefore, please keep an eye open for a parent survey that will be sent out next Friday following the Engagement Summary report.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our remote learning provision. I am incredibly proud of how our whole school community is working together to overcome all the challenges we currently face. Now, more than ever, we are relying on parents and carers, and the fundamental role you play in the education of our students.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Reynolds', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Angela Reynolds  
Principal