

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all you are doing at present to support the on-line learning programme. The overwhelming feedback from parents and students has been positive and students have engaged well with learning. It is a credit to the strong partnership between school and home that we have all been able to adapt so quickly and successfully to new ways of working.

The most significant concern that has been raised has been around the amount of screen time students are engaging in- up to at least 5 hours a day. This does not take account of screen time devoted to homework and socialising or social media, and for some students gaming. With this in mind we will now be moving to 'blended' model. This has been highlighted by parents, students and staff.

Routines have now been well established and students should continue to work to their timetable starting each day with Mentor Time. Maintaining a good routine will ensure students remain fully engaged with their learning throughout the lockdown.

The 'blended' model will be made up of approximately 60% live lessons in the way that has been working successfully so far. Other lessons will reduce screen time, offering students the opportunity to work more independently via work set on Show My Homework, PowerPoint presentations, worksheets and email instruction from teachers.

Knowledge Organiser work should focus on identifying the gaps from the previous term and ensuring this knowledge becomes embedded. A guide to support with this is attached.

PE lessons will now be more active to encourage students to engage in some physical activity. Live lessons will be streamed from the main sports hall and we would encourage all to participate in this.

We will be postponing all formal assessments at present until we have a clearer picture of when schools return.

These changes will take effect on Wednesday 20th January and will be in place for the remaining three weeks of this half term. We will review this after two weeks as we plan for next half term. At the time of writing to you, we do not know yet when schools will re-open to all students.

If you have any concerns please contact your child's mentor or Head of Year.

I attach a useful link to the BBC Bitesize website targeted at parents who are supporting their child with home learning - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zdp93j6>

Thank you once again for your support and patience during these challenging times. Together we can ensure that your child continues to make good progress with their learning.

Best wishes,

Paul Mc