

Dear parents, carers and students,

I can hardly believe we are coming to the end of January already – time is flying by. Well done to students for another positive week of online learning. It was great to receive a large number of student nominations from teachers across a range of subjects being recognised for their hard work, positive attitude and work ethic. These students were celebrated in mentor time today, and we will continue this format in the forthcoming weeks. I hope that next week more students are nominated – it's great to be able to contact you and share good news!

Attendance and Engagement

The team are still monitoring attendance closely, and chasing up students who are not marked present in their lesson. We understand that at times technology can be very temperamental which is unavoidable (particularly the WiFi!), so please let us know so we can inform teachers and monitor. All teams live lessons are recorded and can be accessed on the relevant subject "channel" on teams so students can access after the lesson if they missed key content being delivered.

Teachers of the year group have been feeding back to me that some students are showing a lack of engagement within their live lesson, by not responding to direct questioning in the chat, unmuting themselves to answer a question (when directed), and asking questions etc. Teachers are being very creative with the way they plan their lessons, and it is vital that students give their feedback and answer questions in the lesson so that teachers can gauge understanding of content. Alongside this, students should then be completing individual tasks in lessons (both live and independent). This work should be uploaded to Show My Homework so that teachers can give feedback and students understand how to improve their work. I have attached a quick help sheet to show how work can be uploaded, and have also sent this directly to students.

At this point in Year 10, students need to keep their motivation high and engage in their learning. Working hard now will put them in a good position when we return to "normal." Students can get ahead by making a start on creating revision resources (mind maps, flash cards) for key subject content. A quote I have used from the moment I met the year group in 2017 is "do your future self a favour and work hard now." I believe that this has never been more appropriate!

In order to support the independent learning sessions for both maths and science and minimise screen time during these hours, you will be receiving 2 revision guides for both of these subjects through the post during the coming week. Teachers will direct their classes to the relevant sections/pages for each session that correspond with current schemes of learning. Hopefully this will ease some of the anxiety around the volume of work for the independent sessions.

Reports via Weduc

I would like to make you aware that students' M2 reports have now been uploaded to the WEDUC app which can be accessed using mobile devices. Instructions on how to download this are on the TBOWA website. If you have any concerns or problems regarding your child's report please don't hesitate to contact their mentor in the first instance.

I know many of you have previously downloaded 'Weduc' which is a new digital communication and engagement tool that has been designed specifically to improve the way that parents and school staff communicate.

If you experience any issues downloading WEDUC, instructions can be found on the school website found here: <https://www.tbowa.org/parents/weduc> or alternatively please contact Jade Newman using the following email: jade.newman@tbowa.org.

With 2 school weeks left of this term, I encourage the students to keep motivated and work to the best of their ability. If they need any help at all, or even just a phone call with their mentor or I please

just let us know. We are more than happy to support in any way that we can. It has been great to see students reaching out on teams and asking for help or just saying hello! It certainly is strange not seeing them every day!

Hope you and your families have a peaceful weekend,

Kind regards
Rachel Pelling