

**15th January 2021**

## **Update from the Headteacher**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start by thanking many of you who have taken the time to write to the school/me/your child's teachers to comment on how well the blended learning provision is continuing to engage and motivate your child throughout this latest lockdown. We have continued to listen to both your views and those of our young people and as such, evaluated and refined this provision to ensure that all of our young people are best supported in both their learning and wellbeing.

To this end, please find below a summary of tweaks/additions we have made to our current provision which will take effect from **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January**; changes which we hope to positively impact on both your child's wellbeing and learning capacity.

- 1. Pupils to continue to follow their full 5 x lesson-a-day timetable but lesson time will be reduced from 1 x hour to 50 minutes to enable your child and their teacher to build in much needed 'wellbeing breathers' in between screen time;** we would encourage you to support your child in using these 'breathers' to stand up, walk around, hydrate with water and get a moment of fresh air if possible. They shouldn't use this time to re-engage with a different screen in the form of a smart phone/tablet or Xbox. The new times for lessons are set out as follows:

- **Lesson 1:** 9.00am – 9.50am
- **Lesson 2:** 10.00am – 10.50am
- Break 10.50am – 11.20am
- **Lesson 3:** 11.20am – 12.10pm
- **Lesson 4:** 12.20pm – 1.10pm
- Lunch: 1.10 -2.05pm
- **Lesson 5:** 2.05pm – 2.55pm

*\*Please note the change to the finish time of the day to maximise the light during the darker, winter months.*

- 2. Homework for all key stages to be suspended to enable pupils to have sufficient wellbeing time in the light throughout the dark winter months** (Years 12/13 can continue with independent studies throughout non-contact time.)
- 3. On Mondays and Fridays, students will meet their form tutor at the start of the day for 15 minutes between 8.40am and 8.55am:**

- **'Motivational Mondays'** will consist of a key assembly address from your child's Director of Wellbeing alongside some hugely important support tips for the week ahead;
  - **'Feel-good Fridays'** will simply be an opportunity for the form group to 'check in and catch-up' with their peers and form tutor ahead of the weekend;
  - Furthermore, **'Wellbeing Wednesdays'** will provide your child's form tutor with the opportunity to check in with individuals or groups of learners via email/phone or google meet to further support them in all aspects of school life.
4. Alongside of my weekly updates to parents/carers on a Friday, we will shortly be sending a **short video to all parents/carers** to further support you in managing 'blended learning' and how best to support your child at home.

We will of course continue to provide critical on-site support to groups of learners who very much need our help and supervision. As always, usual modes of communicating with the school are available to you; please contact either your child's form tutor, Director of Wellbeing or subject teacher in the first instance. More general queries can be directed to the school email address.

You will note from this correspondence that as a Senior Leadership Team we have tried to ensure that our planning goes beyond the next couple of weeks to account for any eventuality; please be reassured that we will continue to monitor and evaluate all such provision to ensure that our young people continue to be cared for, supported and challenged in the best possible way.

Finally, please note that the only INSET days scheduled for the remainder of this academic year are:

- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July & Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July** so Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July will be the final day of the summer term for pupils.

Please continue to take good care of yourselves.

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Victoria Lambe  
Headteacher