

12 January 2021

Dear Parent

The announcement last week that we were going into further lockdown was a great disappointment to many of us. We hope, that unlike the first lockdown, the current restrictions will not continue past this half-term, and that the roll out of the vaccination will offer us some return to normality in the very near future.

As an Alternative Education Provider, we remain open during this period of national lockdown. We will continue to provide our educational services on-site to all students who attend our setting. Many of our pupils have continued to attend the centre as part of our provision for vulnerable children.

For students whose parents feel that they are unable to attend the centre during this period, we have opened up our remote education programme to ensure that pupils who remain at home, can still access high-quality lessons, curriculum and educational resources. Separate letters have been sent to parents detailing the arrangements for remote education and I would like to thank Miss Cox for getting this established. I am sure you will appreciate the enormous amount of work, and adjustments, that have been undertaken by staff in a short space of time.

Remote Education

We have followed the most recent guidance from the DfE and Ofsted to ascertain what is working well in remote education.

Firstly, we recognise that remote education is not the same as digital education (where remote learning is delivered through digital technologies) and whilst 'live lessons' offer many advantages to learners enabling teachers to control the environment, maintain motivation and attention, and offer feedback, we do agree with Ofsted that sometimes it is more effective to deliver remote education through worksheets, presentations and textbooks.

With this in mind, our remote education programme will encompass a range of methods of delivery including 'live lessons', presentations, worksheets, pre-recorded lessons, the use of presentations and textbooks. As well as covering the key subject areas from the National Curriculum, we will also be delivering both our Careers Education and Literacy programme.

We would ask all parents to encourage their son/daughter to meet the deadline for daily submission of work so that teachers can provide feedback and assess learning.

GCSE Examinations 2021

As I am sure you are already aware, GCSE, and A-level examinations will not happen 'as normal' this year. Ofqual's interim chief regulator, Simon Lebus, has stated that the grade award system is 'going to be based on teacher assessment.'

Vocational and technical qualifications scheduled for February and March will not go ahead, whilst BTECs and Cambridge Nationals taking place this summer will be assessed in a similar fashion to A-levels.



Gavin Williamson (the Education secretary) and Ofqual (England's exam regulator) are conducting a two-week consultation over awarding exams this summer. One proposal is "externally set tasks or papers" which will allow greater parity across schools. Please rest assured that we are monitoring the situation closely and will keep you updated.

Finally, we recognise that each of our family's journey through the pandemic is different and that many families are facing challenging circumstances. We foresee that the next few weeks will test us all, but we remain confident that pupils in our centre will continue to make good progress.

We thank all our parents for your commitment and support; we feel very lucky to have such a supportive community.

Yours sincerely

Claire Fyfe
Principal