



Dear Parents,

I wanted to drop you a very brief note at the end of our second week back, and what a gloriously fast-paced week it has been in school! The students seem to have settled so well, it is hard to believe that they had ever been away.

The vast majority of students have been in school, with a small minority self-isolating, in most cases waiting for a Covid-19 test. Clearly parents will have seen news of delays in the testing system, and I extend our support to those who are frustrated by what appears to be an overwhelmed service. We are so grateful that, despite the obvious challenges that self-isolation brings, parents are respecting the rules and not bringing any unwell children to school, which has meant that the vast majority have been able to keep well and attend school. Thank you for your continued support with this.

I wanted to clarify that those students with a Covid-19 related absence **will** receive additional support through remote learning, assuming they are well enough to engage. Other than in exceptional circumstances, those absent with other illnesses will **not** receive remote learning, owing to the additional burden it places on teachers, but we will provide the normal level support and help to catch up on their return to school. Once we receive notice of a Covid-19 related absence, we will notify the relevant staff to get resources together and start the process. Your patience on that first day of absence would be appreciated. The further into the term we move, the quicker we will be able to use our new technology to react and engage those at home.

Temporary remote learning for Covid related absences will comprise a combination of live links to *some* lessons, resources sent via Teams assignments, live links to assemblies, live links to registrations and phone calls.

We have recently rolled out new Surface Pro laptops to all teaching staff, and our aim is to use these to dial up the number of links to live lessons. Please bear with us as teachers become familiar with the (once again, new) structure of delivering teaching to the majority in a classroom, *and* simultaneously a minority at home due to Covid-19 absences. To assist with this new way of working, we will be delivering IT training to all staff after school on Wednesday 23rd September and **lessons will end at 3pm that day**. Students will be able to leave at that time or access our normal after-school supervision, which is available each day.

Clearly, we hope that remote learning will not be needed for your child, but I appreciate your support as we all do our best to prepare for the range of possible scenarios.

Wishing all RGS families a wonderful weekend.

Geoffrey Stanford

Royal Grammar School, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4DX
T: 0191 281 5711 E: hm@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

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