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Dear parent and carers

Reflections of the first days of this lock down

I realise that at times such as this there are a lot of communications being sent out to parents and carers, certainly many more than in normal times. I just wanted to try and summarise where we are as a school after half a dozen or so days of lockdown lessons.

Our on-line live Teams lesson provision has started incredibly well with great engagement from students and fantastic support from parents and carers. Check out our twitter feed for examples of some great work that is coming through.

Into week 2 and it feels like we have established a productive pattern of working between home and school after a few initial teething problems as well as glitches from Microsoft. I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you who have so valiantly supported us and our students in this process. It's been such a great team effort by everyone which I am sure will continue.

We have also been working hard to support students and families who have limited access to appropriate devices and technology and have recently sent out guidance that will allow console devices such as Xbox and PS3/4 to be utilised to access Teams lessons. We are also working with the DfE to ensure that broadband capabilities are sufficient for families to satisfactorily access the learning, especially when there maybe multiple users in one household at the same time.

Whilst the majority of our lessons are being delivered through Teams it is also important for students to access their Class Charts accounts and check in with their school email accounts as resources and documents may also be placed in these areas to support their learning.

Last week I sent out information regarding Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing that we have been asked to set up on-site by the government. Staff and those students who are on site due to their vulnerable or Critical Worker status have been taking these tests so that as a community we can mitigate the risk and reduce the spread of the disease. Within that communication I also asked that parents and carers complete the consent form link so that we can conduct such tests to all students who come on site in the future, whenever that time frame is. Even if you do not wish your son/daughter to have the test it is important that you complete the consent request form to tell us as much so that we can plan effectively.

As a staff body we have received many communications of thanks and support from the Bilton's school and learning community. It is really heartening to know that we are all focussed on achieving the best educational experiences and outcomes for our students in spite of the current restrictions that we are all having to contend with.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Chambers', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Chambers
Headteacher
Bilton School