

Our Ref JFS/ESD

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Principal: Mr Jon Francies

21 January 2021

Dear Parents

Thank you so much for all your support and for all your hard work with home schooling! The levels of engagement with live and Classcharts activities have been fantastic. Thank you as well for your patience with any teething problems with live sessions. This has been a massive learning curve for all of us. We were fortunate, that before Christmas, unlike other schools we did not have to switch to remote learning.

Thank you to the hundreds of parents who attended our parents forums. There was some really useful feedback. Here is a brief summary of current actions.

- We will issue all year groups a grid/timetable that gives structure to their learning. This includes Classcharts and other activities as well as live sessions. This will be comprised of 3 live sessions a day. As you are aware, we also have managed the in-school provision safely for 7 groups of keyworker/vulnerable students, and for safeguarding that we need two staff in a session. **Please note that as with all arrangements at the moment they could change at short notice depending on COVID related factors that impact on staffing.**
- These sessions will also include a tutor session to assist with TEAMs, workload and well-being. We will also be doing assemblies for the students.
- Year 11 have been fantastic. There is a consultation going on as to how grades may be assessed in the summer. This is due to finish on the 29th January. Proposals include mini tests set by exam boards and marked by teachers as part of the assessment grades. The proposal is also for students to get grades earlier than usual. As soon as we know the plans we will be back in touch. In the meantime keep up the excellent work. We will also be working with colleges to provide bridging work that prepares the students for their next courses.
- Original plans for a virtual parents evening were put on hold as we have had to manage the swift changes to provision for students. Over the next month we are planning to start parents evenings and will begin with year 8. Information on this will go out next week.
- Year 9 guided choices will go ahead and we will be contacting you with the arrangements and invite parents to a virtual evening to start the process.
- We have been testing staff and students for COVID onsite. Whilst we will still continue regular testing for staff we received notification from government yesterday that the mass testing of students has been paused.
- We have now stopped the delivery of free school meals as a voucher scheme came into effect this week.

We have no indication of when things may change other than there will be a review from government soon. We will be putting on parents forums again soon but please contact us if there are any questions or issues.

Finally can I thank the community who have been fantastic in offering support. Our grateful thanks to The Burgess Hill Lions Club and TEK Express Ltd for their generous support providing laptops for students to enable them to access remote learning during this time.

Stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Francies', written in a cursive style.

Jon Francies
Principal