

2 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to the last half term of this academic year in what continues to be a very strange period in our lives. I hope that your own circumstance is such that all in your family are well and that things are going okay.

Online learning

Teaching staff will continue to make provision available, largely in the way they have done over the past ten weeks or so. However, resources are being updated regularly on our [website](#) and we are increasingly looking to use audio and video files with our teaching staff giving guidance and explaining key concepts. There will be an increase in live Teams teaching for year 12s. [Bridging work](#) to assist year 11s' transition to sixth form courses is also being made available. Home learning packs for those unable to access the resources online will continue to be provided.

Beyond this, form tutors in year 9 will be phoning home early this half term, to check in on students and to offer guidance. Any subject-specific concerns raised will be relayed back to teachers for specific follow up with individuals. This is something we will be extending to year 10, but the intention here is for phone calls from tutors to be targeted at those not coming in to access the intended face-to-face support, rather than those who will be coming in (see below for more details).

Please remember that there are lots of resources relating to children and family health and wellbeing on our website, which you can find [here](#).

Key worker and vulnerable children

Arrangements for the children of key workers and those who are vulnerable will continue as before, but at the high school rather than the middle school. We shall undertake surveys to determine attendance requirements every so often, just as we have been doing. Please remember to let us know if your child isn't able to attend on a day we would otherwise have been expecting them. Given the return to school of greater numbers of students, we will no longer be able to provide free lunches, other than for those entitled to free school meals.

Arrangements for students in years 10 and 12

Last week, the government published its guidance for secondary and high schools relating to years 10 and 12. They have specified that home learning is to remain the predominant mode of education throughout this term for students in these year groups, but schools should plan to supplement this with some face-to-face support from 15 June. I have written separately to year 10 and 12 parents and carers with details of the arrangements, which others may be interested in. You can find this letter [here](#).

Staffing

Congratulations to Mrs Currie who has been appointed as Associate Assistant Headteacher at Hexham Middle School, where she takes up post in September. We will now look to recruit a

replacement for Mrs Currie as pastoral leader for current year 9 going into year 10. I will update you on developments on this and all other staff comings and goings later this term.

In the meantime, all good wishes to you and everyone at home. As ever, please get in touch through the usual channels if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Atkins', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Graeme Atkins
Executive Headteacher