

6 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Update following government announcements

As you are aware we have been working hard over the last few days to respond to the ever-changing directions from the government and continue to be responsive to updated advice and guidance. I wanted to communicate with you about where we are at this present time with regard to remote learning, assessments and examinations. Obviously, as more information comes from the Department for Education, I will continue to email you the school's current position.

Government stay at home order

Following the [Prime Minister's announcement](#) on Monday night students will not return to school on Monday and learning will be provided to most students remotely until the middle of February. At this current time we are maintaining the plan that was agreed on Monday and will review this provision over the next week. For the time being your child should attend form tutor time each morning where attendance will be taken. Timetables were issued to Y9 and 10 students on Monday. Y11, 12 and 13 are currently following their in-school timetables, as we had originally expected them to be receiving face-to-face teaching this week or the week beginning 18th January. Teachers will schedule live lessons and these will appear in the students' Teams calendar and they will receive email notification to their school email address. At times in the day when there are no live lessons students should work independently on work that has been set by their teachers directly, on Moodle, Teams or any subject-specific learning platforms. The students are, of course, encouraged to take break and lunchtime. They can also use timetabled core PE lessons, where appropriate, to take some exercise. Attendance in live lessons will be taken and non-attendance followed up by the pastoral teams. If your child faces technical barriers to accessing learning please email IThelp@qehs.net.

Students have been issued with guidance through Form Tutors and can communicate with teachers via the school email system. We are also still using the guidance and timetables that were shared with parents/carers on Monday. We will share any adjustments with you that we make to our provision in light of government announcements or feedback from students and staff.

We are providing on-site supervision of vulnerable students and the children of critical workers as per the [government guidance](#).

GCSE and A Level examinations in the summer

We will be in touch with you once we have more information about the summer exams and how the school will proceed. I appreciate this is an anxious time for those students facing this uncertainty and we will communicate with you all, in accordance with government guidance, as soon as we have more information. While there is much speculation in the media we are awaiting specific information from the Department for Education.

BTec and OCR Examinations

These will still take place in school and Ms. Innes will email the relevant students and families with more details.

Y10 and Y12 Assessments

We are planning to run the Y12 assessments next week. These will be delivered online by teachers and are open book. It is also our intention to run the Y10 assessments remotely during week beginning 18th January and 25th January. However, Ms. Platts will email you with the details once these have been agreed with Curriculum Leaders.

DfE and data use support scheme

We are also currently looking into the government's decision to increase the data allowance on mobile usage to take account of the demands on use created by lockdown. We will be in touch with you all via email about how this can be accessed.

I realise that these are challenging times for our school community and we are continually responding to changing advice, guidance and policy. However, I will endeavor to communicate with you as much as possible to alleviate any anxieties that your child could be experiencing. The School is working hard on planning online provision and, while there could be some teething problems as we establish an alternative way of working, we are continually striving to ensure that the learning is right for our students and best meets their needs.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Seaton
Head of School