



5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well as we all adapt to the challenges provided by the third national lockdown. Following a brief message last night, I would now like to take the opportunity to provide you with more detailed guidance concerning your child's education.

Key Worker Registration

The school is only open to children of key workers and vulnerable children. If you are a key worker, you can still register a child to attend school via the following link which has now been updated to include Year 11 students:

www.toothillschool.co.uk/keyworker/

Registration is a weekly process as key worker's working days can change. Consequently, this link refreshes every Thursday so please continue to register your child weekly via this link. Please do not be confused by the 'Easter' word in the webpage title when using this link; it is a legacy address used at the start of the first lockdown.

Remote Learning

We continue to provide remote learning via MS Teams. Students can access the lessons via the MS Teams calendar but should also regularly check their school Outlook email for further information from teaching staff. We are aiming to stream as many live lessons as possible but this is not always feasible but high quality online resources will always be provided for each lesson. Students should have paper, stationary and where possible their exercise books with them when attending lessons to enable them to do paper-based activities set by the teacher.

From tomorrow, lunch time will be scheduled for Years 7 to 11 at 11:45 to 12:20 to ensure siblings can share the same lunch time at home. On a return to school for all students, we will revert to a staggered lunch.

External Examinations

The Government has announced that it won't be possible for all exams to go ahead as normal this summer. The Government will work with Ofqual and exam boards on alternative arrangements and we expect to be provided with more detail from Gavin Williamson MP tomorrow.

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We have no more detail to provide you at this stage, but I can promise that we will keep you updated as soon as we know more. We will continue to prioritise the teaching of GCSE, A Level and Vocational courses to Year 11 and 13 students via the live streaming of lessons. It is crucial that students in these year groups continue to actively engage with remote learning; the mode of delivery may have changed but we continue to make sure students will complete their courses.

We will do everything possible to ensure that our students will receive grades they deserve. We will work closely with the exam boards and our own Trust to ensure this happens.

The Department for Education has confirmed that January vocational exams will go ahead as planned and we have communicated our examination protocols for these exams with families today.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Testing

The coronavirus (COVID-19) testing programme will be continued to enable weekly testing for staff and daily close contact testing for those staff and students attending. For those students attending school, where we have medical consent, we will also be conducting weekly tests. When we return to a full opening, we intend to test students on their return.

Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings will be online this academic year. We will soon be in contact with how to book appointments and attend these evenings online.

Student Wellbeing

A national lockdown represents a challenging time for children. Tutors will continue to make regular contact with their students and where appropriate families may receive regular supportive telephone calls. Students and parents can also access a wealth of safeguarding information, covering areas such as online safety and safeguarding agency contacts, at the following link:

<https://www.toothillschool.co.uk/page.php?p=wellbeing>

Many thanks for your continued support during this most challenging of times and my best wishes to you and your family.

Yours faithfully,



Dr C Eardley
Head of School