



13 January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardian

I am writing to you with an update on remote learning. Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who responded to our parent survey that Miss Bliss sent out last Friday. In total over 100 students were represented by the returns. And the results were very pleasing:

- 100% of parents who responded rated our online provision as good or excellent
- 65% of respondents rated our provision as excellent

Whilst there were so many wonderful comments that made us feel incredibly proud of the school and our online provision, there was also some very useful constructive feedback which will help us to refine our offer further.

A number of you commented on ensuring there are distinct and worthwhile breaks in the school day. We will be firming up the timings of the school day and re-iterating to our staff that lessons should be 50 minutes to allow for between lesson screen breaks. In addition, we intend to make our lunchtime 50 minutes whilst we remain in this period of remote provision to allow for food and a bit of downtime. We are also looking at some other possibilities to reduce the total time on screen, such as a tutor day and wellbeing and exercise slots, however, our thinking is very much in the embryonic phase on this. It is worth reminding you that we have an INSET day on January 27th (Wednesday) which also breaks up the week after next.

We have introduced a Student of the Day scheme which acknowledges the hard work and effort of students through an email home and Achievement Points that contribute to the House Point Challenge. Teaching staff are asked to nominate one of their students each day and parents of the nominees should receive an email by the end of the day from our office team. This is in addition, of course, to regular positive feedback and encouragement that staff provide for students during lessons.

One of the other strands of feedback in the survey involved technology issues. I am pleased that, as far as we know, the large majority of the issues raised have now been solved. I hope, over the next few days, any outstanding problems relating to accessibility of devices can also be resolved. We have had a delivery of laptops for those students who indicated to us that they had struggled because of this factor. We are still awaiting a supply of dongles from the DFE but hope to receive these shortly.

We are incredibly proud of our offer of live content, but we wanted to provide you with a graphic of the different strands that could make up live learning, and to this end, I attach to my letter a slide on 'Live Learning' and what it can look like. What I want to be clear on is that whilst you should see a teacher introducing each lesson, the lesson can then be made up of a range of other features across the 50 minutes.

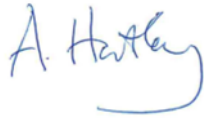
Lastly, can I once again mention conduct in online lessons. Students must not disrupt the learning of others, either through the chat function of Google Classroom or use of the microphone at an inappropriate time. Similarly, they must not, from a data protection point of view, screenshot and share any images or sounds from the lessons. It is also expected that students should expect to contribute to lessons as much as possible. This could be a spoken answer or an answer through the chat function. These methods of interaction are vital for a

teacher in assessing understanding and adapting teaching content to meet the needs of the class and individuals.

Thank you once again for your amazing support both for our work through the surveys and social media but also on a day to day basis in ensuring our students are ready to learn and learning appropriately. It is making a big difference!

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher