

EBE/srg

6th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on the plans from Monday, 11th January following the government announcement of remote learning for all students until February half term with the exception of key worker or vulnerable students who are welcomed into school.

From Monday, we will be providing a minimum of 3 live lessons a day to students in every year group. Each lesson can last up to an hour, but staff will use their initiative to decide when an independent task will be appropriate to set. Alongside the live lessons, supplementary work will be set for all students to compliment the live lesson work. This will all be shared via Edulink and students will be expected to utilise Google Classrooms, Educake and MyMaths to feedback to staff who can track completion and offer feedback. It may not be your child's teacher delivering the sessions, as we need to allocate staff into school for the provision we have to offer. However, your child's teacher will very much be involved in tracking the work of your child.

Live lessons and supplementary tasks are compulsory. If there are barriers for students to take part or complete tasks, we need to know ASAP to support you and your child accordingly. We will be monitoring attendance and there will be a team of staff assigned to contacting parents each hour if your son/daughter does not attend. This is an ambitious target of ours, but we know how important attendance to remote learning is and we cannot afford for any child to fall behind at this stage.

All students are expected to attend live lessons. If your child is too sick to attend, you must follow the usual attendance procedures and inform the absence line or student absence email by 8:30am daily or inform us using the attendance icon in Edulink. Details to report student absences can be found on our website. This will prevent you receiving unnecessary calls when we track attendance to lessons. Equally, if there is an issue with your child accessing the live lessons, please inform your child's Director of Student Progress so their teachers can be informed in advance and offer support and assistance. We must emphasise the importance of engaging in live lessons this term, to prevent further gaps in your child's learning and other issues resulting from disengagement.

We will share the timetable of lessons with your children directly and our aim is to upload the timetable over the weekend to Edulink so you can view the upcoming new plan. Unfortunately, we cannot do it earlier as it will overwrite our current timetable, which we are still using until the end of Friday.

We also plan to run voluntary wellbeing sessions each day from 8.30am-9am and 2.30pm-3pm. More details will follow advising which sessions will be available for each key stage. We also will be scheduling in regular assemblies with the Director of Student Progress to ensure we keep our strong community going. We do expect attendance to the assemblies as it is an essential time where we will share key messages with your children.

Continued/....

Willingdon
Community School
Headteacher:
Ms E. Beer



Broad Road
Lower Willingdon
Eastbourne
East Sussex BN20 9QX



T 01323 485254
E office@willingdonschool.org.uk
W willingdonschool.org.uk



- 2 -

We will be offering Parent Forum sessions to give us the chance to talk this all through and for you to ask any questions. We hope to see many of you there as they are a great opportunity to feedback to us and ensure we are helping you and your child effectively. You only need to attend one parent forum as it will be a repeated session. They will be running at the following times:

TODAY - Wednesday, 6th January; 4-5pm

Thursday, 7th January; 10am – 11am and 4pm-5pm

Please contact my PA, Miss Rogers, by email for the code for the session you would like to join. srogers@willingdonschool.org.uk

We aim to do regular welfare calls to our community to ensure that any concerns you have can be shared. It will largely be your child's tutor who will make these, but there will be other members of staff who may call e.g. SEN department to check that the work is accessible for your child. Sometimes our numbers do not show up because staff are making these calls remotely from home and cannot share their personal details with you. We did struggle to get hold of some parents as they would not accept anonymous calls. I hope this reassures you that it might be us and to hopefully answer. If we do not hear from a family within two weeks, we will refer to the safeguarding team to check in on the welfare of the family.

Boris Johnson hit us with the bombshell of changes to exams for Year 11 which none of us in education expected to hear. We are reassured that government will work with all teacher unions, Headteachers and OFQUAL to find a system that is fair and robust in awarding grades. I know this news must have caused great anxiety for many of our Year 11 and I would like to reassure them that we are here to support them. It is absolutely crucial they continue to engage entirely in their learning. We were asked last academic year to use a lot of assessment and mock data to support the calculation of Centre Assessed Grades. There is still significant time for students to make significant improvements and give us more evidence IF we are required to provide this once again. We have a fantastic Year 11 student body and I know they will rise to the challenge of digging deep right now and trusting us to do the very best by them.

On Friday, we will be running assemblies for all year groups to ensure we can talk them through the plans from Monday. It is essential your child attends these, so they are clear on what will happen from Monday. In the assemblies we will ensure they all know how to access and use Google Classrooms. If your child is in the on school site provision, they will be able to access all live lessons and supplementary study and will be supported by teaching staff as well as support staff. The Director of Student Progress for each year group will be sending the codes and times to you and your children.

I wish you all a lovely week and as always, any questions we are here for you. Do use the talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk to contact us, as I have a team of people directing the enquiries to the staff that are available.

Best wishes,

Ms E. Beer
Headteacher

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