

17 April 2020

To All Parents of Pupils in Year 8

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the world of on line learning and the virtual classroom.

Over the Easter holidays we have been working very hard to ensure that as a school we continue to deliver the same high class education that we pride ourselves on and for students in year 8 this means offering the following services;

### **1. All teaching will now be delivered via Microsoft Teams**

For those unfamiliar with MS Teams this is a programme that allows us to teach live video and/or presentation based lessons as well as combining the benefits that we have already seen of MS One Note. Mr Beasley has been preparing an introductory video for all pupils and a link to this video will be sent to all students early next week. At the start of each lesson pupils will be required to visit the appropriate 'Team' where they will find their teacher on line ready to deliver the lesson via video or to set independent work or, more likely, a combination of both.

### **2. Induction Day on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> day of term**

Mrs Tudor will be delivering a start of term assembly which will be followed by an opportunity for all pupils to watch the introductory video mentioned above. At this point form tutors will be arranging to meet small groups of 4 or 5 students at a time to ensure that they are in a position to fully utilise MS Teams. We anticipate that some pupils will encounter some difficulties and all pupils will have questions about the new way of working. Mr Beasley, Mr Wilkinson and our IT support team will all be on hand to help solve as many of these issues as possible with the aim being that all students are ready to go straight into learning on Wednesday morning.

### **3. End of Year Exams.**

As you will probably be aware the end of year exams usually happen during the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> May.

It is our intention to continue with this plan and so during this week all pupils will sit a series of assessments.

Staff are currently working on how best to administer these and what form the exams should take. Further details will be available soon but we fully appreciate that these cannot take their usual form, that we need to make them much 'lower stake' and less 'exam like' than usual and that all pupils will have access to a variety of resources that they will be able to use. Having said this it is still possible to set assessments that help us to gauge the progress pupils have made especially over the last two terms and this benchmark is very important to staff as we begin to plan programmes for next year. Please note that if schools are allowed to re-open before the end of next term then we will postpone the exams until school returns. Please be assured that we will give pupils as much notice of this as we possibly can.

#### 4. Homework Projects

Homework Projects in the summer term for years 7 and 8 are always geared towards exam revision. Staff will provide pupils with a list of *what* to revise and then an idea of *how* to revise. It is important to realise that the idea of how to revise is not necessarily specific to the subject for which it is given. If the revision idea for Geography works for Science for example then by all means use this idea. We will aim to get the project pages up and running as soon as possible.

#### 5. Teaching

As suggested above the teaching in the first half of term is very much geared towards preparing pupils for the end of year exams and so we have prepared the following timetable for all students in year 8 to follow.

Please note that we will be moving to a one week timetable and no weird Wednesday! Following feedback from pupils, staff and parents we have also allowed a 10 minute 'screen break' between each lesson.

We have invited staff to offer as much 'live' teaching as possible but have insisted that at least 1 lesson in 4 is live. Even when independent work has been set staff are still going to be on hand during the lesson times to answer any questions pupils may have.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Form time	8.45 - 9.15					
Period 1	9.20 - 10.10	MFL 1	MFL 1	Tec 1	Science	Geog/Music 1
Period 2	10.20 - 11.10	Hist/Drama 1	Maths	English	Tec 1(1)	Geog/Music 2
Break	11.10 - 11.40					
Period 3	11.40 - 12.30	PE + Dance	PE + Survival	PE + Wellness	PE + Choir	PE + Soc Act
Lunch	12.30 - 2.00					
Optional Clinics	1.15 - 1.45	Sci Clinic	MFL Clinic	Humanities	Eng Clinic	Maths Clinic
Period 4	2.00 - 2.50	MFL 1	Science	RS/Comp Sci 2	Maths	English
Period 5	3.00 - 3.50	RS/Comp Sci 1	Hist/Drama 2	Maths	English	Science
Extended Day	4.15 - 5.15					

Geog/Music 1	8L Geog - SDT	8H Music - CW
Geog/Music 2	8L Music - CW	8H Geog - SDT
Hist/Drama 1	8L Hist - PM	8H Drama - RV
Hist/Drama 2	8L Dra - RV	8H Hist - PM
RS/Comp Sci 1	8L Co Sc - DBE	8H RS - KMA
RS/Comp Sci 2	8L RS - KMA	8H Co Sc - DBE

#### 6. Subject Clinics

These will run in a very similar way to our usual subject clinics. Members of the relevant departments will be on line from 1.15 – 1.45 each lunchtime to help you with any problems that you have encountered with your studies so far. For subjects not mentioned in the list then please email your teacher directly for additional help.

## 7. E3

Enrichment Three, is period 3 every day whilst we are remote learning. Give one of the activities below a go and put 'you' first for the hour! We have at least 4 activities to choose from each day and if you aren't able to join in at 11.40 then you can still do the activity later in the day.

Activity		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
<b>S P O R T</b>	Fitness	Higher intensity workouts, from cross-fit to plyometric! Get ready to get a sweat on...	<b>AMRAP – as many rounds as possible!</b> Mr Humphrey	<b>Lower Body Circuit</b> Mr Humphrey	<b>Ballistic/Strength Movements</b> Mr Humphrey	<b>Upper Body Circuit</b> Mr Humphrey	<b>Abs Friday</b> Mr Humphrey
		Lower intensity workouts, focussing on circuit training.	<b>Whole Body Circuit</b> Staff	<b>Flexibility</b> Staff	<b>Cardio Circuit</b> Staff	<b>Upper Body Circuit</b> Staff	<b>Legs, Bums and Tums</b> Staff
	Games Challenges	Use the challenge card in the sport of your choice to record your score for the week and see the progress! Find these on Microsoft Teams!	<b>Football &amp; Hockey</b> Staff	<b>Football &amp; Hockey</b> Staff	<b>Football &amp; Hockey</b> Staff	<b>Football &amp; Hockey</b> Staff	<b>Football &amp; Hockey</b> Staff
	Personal Choice	5k run, 30 minute walk, skill practise. Its up to you... just make sure you're letting us know what you're up to by posting on Microsoft Teams.	<b>Run, Walk, Jog...</b> Staff	<b>Pick a Skill and Practice it!</b> Staff	<b>Run, Walk, Jog...</b> Staff	<b>Pick a Skill and Practice it!</b> Staff	<b>Run, Walk, Jog...</b> Staff
<b>DANCE</b>	A different genre each week – No experience necessary	<b>Dance Class</b> Miss Vallance					
<b>CHRISTIAN LIFE</b>	The usual mix of Bible study and sticky treats.			<b>Bible and Cake</b> Mrs Venables & Matsuya			
<b>WELLNESS</b>	Using mindfulness exercises to calm the mind, boost self awareness and cultivate resilience			<b>Wellness</b> Mrs Strivens			
<b>SURVIVAL</b>	D of E meets Bear Grylls meets CCF meets The Green Team				<b>Survival</b> Mr McNaughton		
<b>MUSIC</b>	Join us singing and playing some of your favourite songs. All welcome, no experience necessary so give it a go!		<b>Vocalise</b> Mrs Ellwood			<b>Friday Band</b> Ms Woodhouse	

## 8. Music Clubs

In addition to the 'everyone is welcome' E3 music sessions Mrs Ellwood will also be offering two remote music clubs

- Senior Choir-Monday 12.40-1.10
- Orchestra-Wednesday 12.40 – 1.10

As you are aware the situation is changing on a daily basis and we will continue to adapt as best we can. If schools are allowed to re-open before the start of the summer holidays then we will certainly open as soon as we are able to and will return to our usual two week timetable.

In the meantime, I would very much welcome feedback both positive and negative but please do experience a fortnight or so of this new venture before letting us know how we are getting on.

Yours sincerely

*J Vallance*

Mr I Vallance  
Deputy Head (Academic)