



2nd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support during this difficult time, and also give you some updates about our remote learning provision. On a personal level I know how difficult it was to attempt to coordinate my own children's learning during the last lockdown. I hope our live lessons have made the transition back to remote learning easier this time round. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Year Leaders or myself. Once we have a fuller understanding of when we can start to allow more students back into the school building, we will share that with you all.

Attendance and Engagement on Teams

Year leaders are working hard monitoring attendance and punctuality to remote lessons alongside engagement to lessons on Teams. Registers are taken at the start of each lesson so that we can monitor who is managing to attend throughout the day. We are now starting to monitor active engagement more closely. Students are often asked to submit assignments or complete a quiz at the end of each lesson. This helps teaching staff to identify misconceptions and plan future lessons. If a student fails to submit work set, they will receive an email from their teacher checking that there is no underlining reason why work was not submitted and setting a second deadline. If that second deadline is then not met, the class teacher will log a neutral point on Go 4 Schools and contact parents or carers via email or phone. If your child is having difficulty accessing lessons or assignments on Teams please contact their Year Leader or the class teacher.

Student Voice

Students will have received a link to complete a questionnaire focused on teaching and learning using Teams. On the questionnaire, students are asked a series of questions in each subject on their timetable. Can you please encourage your child to complete this questionnaire as it will hopefully help us to identify areas of strength and how we can adapt our remote teaching to improve the experience for all.

Screen Time

We are aware that remote learning has increased the amount of time both students and staff are spending looking at a screen. We have asked staff to try and build in a number of different strategies into their lessons to encourage student participation and reduce the time we are all looking at screens. Lessons will run for a maximum of 45 minutes, to ensure that everyone gets a 10 to 15 minute screen and comfort break in between lessons. During lessons we are encouraging staff to introduce tasks where students may be asked to turn off their screens and work independently for 10 to 15 minutes before coming back to discuss their work with the teacher and the rest of the class. Teachers will remain available on chat or email for any questions during this time, in the same manner they would supervise and support individual students during an independent task in the class room at school.

During this period of remote learning we will at times have blocks of lessons during the day where assignments are set or a voiced over PowerPoint provided in the place of a live lesson. If there is a parents evening after school we have asked staff to set assignments for their classes in the afternoon prior to the evening so that they can have a screen break. On the last day of half term, Friday 12th February staff will not

be teaching live lessons. Assignments or voiced over PowerPoints will be provided for all lessons, for your child to complete. Staff are using this day to plan and prepare for remote learning after the half term. Teachers will also not be setting any homework over the half term break as students and staff need a break away from screens and the chance to relax and spend quality time with our individual families.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We appreciate how difficult this time is for us all. Everyone's situation and circumstance is different and as a school we want to support you during this time. It is important to ensure that a balance is made between education and mental health and wellbeing. This week is Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. In order to raise awareness and support our students we are asking them to participate in an activity and reflect on a PowerPoint that we have sent them via school email. To link in with this year's theme 'Express Yourself,' the library are running a competition. Students have been asked to send us a piece of writing or artwork that expresses themselves and how they are feeling. The aim is to collate the entries into an anthology which will be kept and shared in the library. Please do encourage your child to participate should they wish to, and forward any entries to our librarian via email. We would also like to draw your attention to our wellbeing section of the website for any advice and/or supporting agency links if needed. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Year Leader in the first instance with any queries or support requests.

<https://www.emmanuel.nottingham.sch.uk/working-from-home/positive-mental-health/>

Once again thanks for all your continued support. I look forward to meeting more of our students and parents in person later this year. Please remember we are here for you if you need any additional support during this time.

With warm regards



Sandra Stapleton
Principal