



15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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**Principal:** Siobhan Kent

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well as I get in touch to give you a quick update from this week in lockdown. What a week it has been – Covid restrictions, setting up the Mass Testing Site and major snow - we're definitely being kept busy!

We continue to be so pleased by the engagement of students in their Remote Learning. As I said last week, there is a sense that they are getting to grips with their routines and finding what works for them. It is also pleasing to note that whilst some students are comfortable following their school timetables, others have found that reworking their timetable helps their motivation through the week. Please remind them that as long as they do their best to complete their work by the end of the week, they can choose the order of their lessons to suit them.

As something to note, we have taken the decision as a staff not to formally assess the Y7-10 students during the lockdown. We are trying to reduce their pressure a little and focus on subject content. For the Year 11 students, it is important that we maintain their assessments in order to ensure that we have the evidence that may be required for their GCSEs at the end of the year.

We have uploaded a Parent Checklist onto the website on the following link <https://www.sbch.org.uk/welcome-sbcs/parental-communication/coronavirus-covid-19/> to help you support your children further.

It has also been great to hear that students are responding well to the recorded lessons and enjoy seeing their teachers deliver their lessons through the week. The ability to rewind, repeat and pause lessons seems to be very beneficial to them. This strategy is also helping in homes where devices are being shared. Please remember that we are here to help at any point in the day. If you require any support at all, please just get in touch with your child's academic mentor and they will support as quickly as they possibly can.

You may have seen our text that went out this week as a plea for any old, unused devices that families may have in the home. We have reached our government limit of new devices so we are now trying to locate any devices that we may be able to recycle in order to support our families who are in need of devices to support their children at home. This is such a challenging time and even more so if you are a family of many children who don't have the



Outstanding  
2011-2012



luxury of a device for each child. If you are in a position to donate to the school, please can you email our Business Manager, Sarah Graham on [sgraham@sbch.org.uk](mailto:sgraham@sbch.org.uk) who can tell you how to donate. Thank you so much to those parents who have already made donations to us, it is truly appreciated by us and the children.

We have now been advised by the government that the Free School Meal vouchers will be able to be purchased by school next week. Our aim is to have the shopping vouchers out to families in receipt of Free School Meals by the end of next week, to the email address that we have on our system in school. The vouchers will equate to £15 per child per week from the 18<sup>th</sup> January to the 12<sup>th</sup> February. If you feel that you need further support from us during this time, please don't struggle. We will do all that we can to support our families throughout.

Throughout the week, our students will have received a call from their academic mentor and will have also had contact from their Head of Year over email. Please do encourage them to respond to their Head of Year should they need anything at all. The staff welcome the contact from the students so do reassure them should they wish to get in touch.

I'll finish with a thank you, to all of our parents and carers, as always. Thank you for responding to all the requests for information that we have made this week; thank you for your understanding when the snow has hit; thank you for your beautiful emails that, just when we are tiring a little, pick us up and remind us why we're here!

Have a peaceful weekend, enjoy the winter beauty and above all, stay safe.

God bless,

Siobhan Kent  
Principal