



8th January 2021

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Principal: Siobhan Kent

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to keep you up to date at the end of our first lockdown week and I'll try to ensure that I keep in contact regularly over the coming weeks.

As you know, the very large majority of our students are currently working remotely from home and are accessing their learning through our Remote Learning Programme. We have very few students in school accessing emergency places. The normal risk assessment is in place in school, including separate entry and exit points, year group bubbles and normal break and lunch routines. The students in school are working on remote learning in one classroom for the day. Our advice to parents is that if it is possible for your child to be at home safely, this is the best place for them during the lockdown period.

Hopefully, if we stop as much contact as possible, the infection rates will fall and we can come out of this situation as quickly as possible. If parents require an emergency place for their child from this point on, please could you request this through the following email: rgraham@sbch.org.uk. Rachel Graham, Attendance and Family Liaison Officer will then contact you to discuss your keyworker status and arrangements.

We have been so pleased at the engagement of our students from Year 11 working through their lessons this week to the younger year groups accessing their optional work. It is clear that we are now used to these routines and the students have responded brilliantly. There is a sense this time that our routines are in place, students are more aware of how to learn remotely and engagement is high.

In terms of our lovely Year 11 students, we have obviously had the confirmation that they will not be assessed by end of year GCSE examinations. We are waiting for the detailed guidance from the government as to how they will ask schools to respond and when we receive this, we'll update you as parents. In the meantime, we need our students to access their remote learning, complete all of their work set and return it to their teachers. This will support a teacher assessment strategy. Our Year 11 students should also be completing their Post 16 applications and support information has been sent to them via email and to you as parents via text. If they struggle in any way, please do let their academic mentor know, or encourage them to email their teachers who are on hand to support each day.

From Monday 11th January, all year groups will start their compulsory Remote Learning. All of the work for the week will be uploaded to their Go4Schools account on Monday morning so that they can either follow their normal school timetable, or they can choose a schedule that they are more comfortable with at home. You'll see that we have focused on the use of video support either from their own teacher or from national resources. This will allow the students to not only have verbal explanations to accompany their tasks, but also to be able to replay explanations as and when they need to.



Our students should all have received a call from their academic mentors to check on their wellbeing and see if there is anything that we can do to help in this first week. Their Head of Year will be in touch next week over email with updates from their Year Group and Forms.

We have been advised that an update on Free School Meal support is coming from the government. As soon as we have this, we will arrange for the support to be accessed by parents. In the meantime, we have food parcels available should you wish to collect them and please do contact me if you need any support before the government plans are put in place.

We will hopefully have a more settled and routine based week next week. We will stay in contact as promised and give you as much opportunity as we can to ask questions, receive support and be comfortable with the students' provision during lockdown.

Finally, thank you so much for your kind messages that have come through the Academic Mentors.

There is no doubt that this is a challenging and often frightening situation. It's heart-warming to know though that we are all working together, doing the best that we can for our beautiful young people, focusing on their academic work, their health and wellbeing as well as their happiness.

Have a peaceful weekend together and above all, stay safe.

God bless,

Siobhan Kent
Principal