

Dear parents and carers

I said in yesterday's letter that plans were all subject to change and here we are. The plans for the next three days have not been changed significantly by the announcement of the new lockdown as we were expecting to be supporting home learning already. I have updated the letter I sent to reflect what changes there are and to give you a sense of how we're looking to adjust our plans for the coming weeks.

Remote Learning Support

As noted yesterday, for the next three days (Wed 6th to Fri 8th Jan) this will follow the same pattern that students followed for the last two days of last term.

- All students will log on to Teams for form time, where their form tutor will register them and check that they are set up for the day.
- Students in Y11 and Y13 will have Teams lessons which follow their normal timetable (from Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th January. Teachers will continue to follow the curriculum as planned until such time as we have guidance about what changes are going to be made to assessment and award of GCSE and A Level grades. I have added some further notes on this below.
- Students in Y7 to Y10 and Y12 will do the work set in the lessons on their timetable for that day. They will access the work they need to do along with support resources through the Home Learning Curriculum Plans on the Home Learning section of the website. Teachers will provide additional information, collect work or give feedback through ShowMyHomework or, where appropriate, through Microsoft Teams. Where teachers are interacting with students through ShowMyHomework, or Microsoft Teams, this will be at the time when their lessons would normally have run.

Teachers will be reviewing their home learning curriculum plans in the light of the lockdown announcement with an aim of publishing revision to those plans from the start of next week. We are planning that every day will begin with a Teams check in with form tutors so that students have that regular contact and form tutors can help them resolve any challenges they are facing with home learning. We will also look at a revised timetable where needed to help students to plan and manage work set remotely. This will include information about how and when students will interact with teachers, through Teams and ShowMyHomework.

Students who will be in school

There is provision for students who are children of key workers to be able to come into school where this is needed to allow their parents to work. We are already expecting some students this week from emails that you have already sent. Please do not send your child into school if you have not emailed us, as we need to know who we are expecting. **If you have not contacted school, but you are a key worker and need your child to be supervised in school for one or more of the days this week, please email sgiles@notredame-high.co.uk by the end of the day today.**

We will be putting out a further survey to establish the likely demand for places in the remaining weeks up until the half term.

There is also provision, where needed, for students with an Education Health Care Plan, any student who has a social worker, or students who have other additional needs that mean that they may need some time in school. We have already made contact directly with a number of families where we believe this provision may be helpful. If you were expecting contact and no one has been in touch, please email sgiles@notredame-high.co.uk.

Information for students who will be in school accessing this provision:

- **Students should report to the CLC from 8.45am and must arrive by 9am.** They will be supervised in rooms round the school where they will be accessing the remote learning provided by their teachers.
- **Students should wear uniform**
- **There will be a reduced food service at lunch time.** Students can, of course bring a packed lunch if they choose
- **Students should bring their normal pencil case and a set of earphones if they have them.** We can lend earphones to students who don't have them, so that they can engage with Teams lessons and access help videos from teachers. However, for Covid reasons, it is helpful if students can bring their own if they have them.
- **Students should bring and wear a face covering.**
- **Students should not come into school if they have Covid symptoms,** but instead should get a test. We would advise that students remain at home if they are generally 'under the weather' to make sure that they do not develop Covid symptoms.

Unfortunately, we are anticipating that the normal school bus services will not be running during the period of lockdown. We will update you if there is a change to this.

Students with exams this year

Students with modular exams this year

We are awaiting updates from the exam boards for students following courses with modular exams through the year. We understand that these will run as planned, though there may be some changes. We will write to students and parents directly where they have modular exams as soon as we have information from exam boards.

Those students who have a Health and Social Care Exam on Monday should expect to come in to school as planned. We are awaiting confirmation from the exam board about this. If there are any changes we will write to you.

Students in Y11, Y13 and Y10

We know that GCSE and A Level exams will not go ahead as planned this summer, but we don't yet know what will happen instead. I understand the concern that this will cause for some. For now, we will continue to run GCSE and A Level courses as planned as this is the most sensible thing to do until we have some further guidance. That learning will be beneficial for whatever next steps that students take and will help to prepare students and inform teachers for whatever approach is put in place to assess students and award grades. It will also maintain some kind of routine and focus for students to help manage that uncertainty.

As tempting as it is, at this point it is unhelpful to engage in speculation as to what those arrangements will be. We will respond to guidance as soon as we receive it and will make sure that you know what it means for you.

Once again, I thank you for your support of teachers and other colleagues. You are all in our thoughts and prayers, particularly in those situations where the news of a lockdown has caused the most challenge or worry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Davies', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Davies