



ST/KJP

11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well. Firstly, I wanted to thank all of you for your support and hard work this half term. We are aware that the move to remote education has presented many challenges, from sharing equipment and work spaces, to adapting to the role of teaching assistants while working from home, you have risen admirably to this challenge and it is greatly appreciated.

We continue to be incredibly proud of how students have responded to the challenges of learning from home. We have been impressed with the resilience our students have shown and their ability to adapt. The last few weeks have been testing for everyone and the majority of our students are working incredibly hard. We hope that you have found the weekly report on your child's engagement with remote learning helpful.

We are mindful that being in front of a screen for five hours a day may be a struggle for some students and affect their engagement with learning, students need to take regular screen breaks to help with their concentration and focus. Therefore, staff are building in time between lessons 1 and 2 and lessons 3 and 4 so that students have the opportunity to stretch their legs, have a quick break or get a drink. In addition, the academy is setting students some challenges that will be based around learning away from a screen. These challenges will include a physical challenge, a life skill challenge and a creative challenge. There will be a drop down menu of challenges within each category and each week we will be having a screen time shut down lesson when we would like all staff and students to complete an activity. Students will be notified every Monday morning when screen time shutdown will be held each week. During the week students can complete more challenges outside of their timetabled lessons and you may wish to do some of them as a family. We would ask that students upload their completed challenges to their form group Team so that we can celebrate some of their successes. More details will follow in an additional letter!

As we draw closer to half term, I am sure that many families will be looking forward to the break. Unfortunately, there are still a lot of unanswered questions around the return to school and how grades will be awarded for our Year 11 and Year 13 students in the summer. As soon as we are able to share our approach to any guidance that is announced, we will let you know.

The Government has previously announced that the current remote learning provision will be in place until at least Monday 8th March. Therefore, unless there is a further announcement from them we look forward to seeing all students virtually on Monday 22nd February.

We do appreciate how challenging times are at present, in society as well as managing home learning, and we are hopeful that we will be able to welcome students back into school very soon.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care.

Yours sincerely

Mr Stuart Turnbull  
Principal

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