

SG/kb

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Well done everyone on reaching half term. It has been challenging for all but in many respects very rewarding as well. Adapting to a different style of learning is never easy, and can be unsettling, both for students and staff. However, everyone has shown resilience and determination to maintain high and rigorous standards both academically and pastorally. Parents/carers, staff and students all deserve a short break and to spend some time away from a screen. After a well-earned rest, we will await, with bated breath, the government roadmap out of lockdown on 22<sup>nd</sup> February!

The next half term will be short and very busy. There are Year 13 mock exams and, of course, we will have the government guidance regarding the Year 11 and Year 13 non exam process. Year 9 students will select their options for their GCSE and Level 2 BTEC courses and qualifications in preparation for Year 10. The process will include a 'virtual' option assembly, option booklet containing course details and 'virtual' options evenings where students and parents/carers will be able to watch subject staff talk about their respective courses; especially those subjects the students have not been able to experience due to the current situation.

You will have received information regarding our "click and collect" resources service this week, so if your child is running low on learning resources, please ensure you book a time to come into school and collect a pack that includes exercise books, pens and pencils.

### Parent survey

Thank you very much to the parents/carers who returned the survey this week. We had 213 responses and overall the response and the comments were very positive indeed, especially the praise for many staff. We also understand there will always be difficulties with working at home on-line and not all issues can be resolved, but we will endeavour to support you and the students as best we can.

QUESTIONS	STRONGLY AGREE/ AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE/ AGREE	N/A
My child has a quiet area at home where they can focus on school work	98%	66.2%	31.5%	1.9%	0.5		-
		141	67	4	1		
My child has limited access to a computer or tablet at home to do school work e.g. "they share our home device with other family members"	2.3%	2.8%	18.8%	66.2%	85%		9.9%
		5	6	40	141		21
My child has access to internet connection that is fast enough to stream videos/ clips etc.	95%	54.9%	39.9%	3.8%	0.9%		0.5%
		117	85	8	2		1
Do you feel your child is spending too much time on a screen for learning?	57%	18.3%	38.5%	35.2%	6.6%		1.4%
		39	82	75	14		3
Would you like more opportunities for your child to participate in activities that were not on screen?	78%	29.6%	48.4%	14.6%	4.2%		3.3%
		63	103	31	9		7
Do you think your child should have their camera on for all lessons?	57%	15%	42.3%	30%	8%		4.7%
		32	90	64	17		10
Do you think your child should have the option to have their camera on for lessons	72%	22.1%	49.3%	17.4%	6.1%		5.2%
		47	105	37	13		11
My child is coping well with the amount of work	80%	22.1%	58.2%	13.1%	5.6%		0.9%
		47	124	28	12		2
My child is coping well working in the home environment	78%	22.1%	56.3%	16.4%	4.2%		0.9%
		47	120	35	9		2
My child knows where to get well-being support	77%	16.4%	61%	15.5%	5.6%		1.4%
		35	130	33	12		3
I am feeling confident about helping my child learn at home	65%	12.7%	52.1%	25.8%	5.6%		3.8%
		27	111	55	12		8

- It is pleasing to see that the majority of students had a quiet area at home to study, had good access to a computer or tablet and had good internet connection. A reminder though, if you do need assistance with technology, please let us know.
- Students are coping with the amount of work and they know where to go to for support.
- You would like students to participate in more activities that were not on screen, and this is something the school is looking at, especially if lockdown is prolonged. There will be two non-screen days next half term and PSHE is being modified to allow more social interaction and engagement for students.
- Students have been encouraged to put their cameras on and, of course, we will look at ways of providing more support for you at home to help support your children learn on line.

Thank you for all of the comments regarding what we are doing well and how we could improve our on-line provision. Below are the main points that were raised regarding:

#### **What you identified we are doing well:**

- Love the live lessons
- The day being structured and engaging
- Replicating the school day online
- Students understand the learning and how it is set out
- Full timetable is available
- Teachers attendance and engagement with students is excellent
- Teachers care and energy in lessons
- Pastoral care is always excellent
- SEN team and teaching support
- Click and collect idea of resources is great

#### **What could we do to improve?**

- Auto marking of online tests
- Clearer guidance on what work is marked and is not
- Less screen time
- Provide all lesson presentations and worksheet answers on Google Classroom for all lessons
- Having all lessons for one subject on one day too intensive (6<sup>th</sup> Form)
- PSHE to be more socially interactive
- Chosen option subjects in Year 9 have not been taught
- Online support group for parents

Of course we will take all of your comments on board and continue to improve our provision further. Once again, thank you for your kind words regarding staff and your continued support.

Make sure you all have a break as well as it is not easy trying to work at home and support your children with their schooling. Have a great break and stay safe and healthy.

Regards,

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

Mr Stuart Glover  
Acting Headteacher