

SG/kb

22nd January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all continue to stay safe and healthy.

There have been very few positive cases reported since the start of term but tragically some students and staff have lost close family due to the virus and our thoughts and wishes are with those families. This does bring into sharp contrast what everyone is facing at the moment and I do urge all of us to follow government guidelines during this lockdown period and continue to support each other during these challenging times.

Thank you again for all your support with your sons/daughters and their on-line learning. Staff are continually reviewing and reflecting on their practice to ensure the best education is provided for all. Based on this we have updated our guidance with some particular changes in relation to homework, assessments and our priorities for marking to try and keep things manageable for students and staff. You will have received these updates via a key stage and/or PAL ParentMail this week. To help improve our on-line learning provision further we will be seeking the views of students via panels and questionnaires.

You will be aware this week that the government have announced that they will give schools a two week notice period of when students will return to face-to-face learning! The consultation on exam replacement and how grades could be awarded continues and that is due to end on Friday, 29th January. If you would like further information on, or want to respond to, the consultation please use the link below.

<https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/15/how-2021-could-look-for-students-and-learners-we-want-your-views/>

Once we know what that process is and how we will implement it, you will be the first to be informed. Please encourage your sons/daughters not to ask their teachers regarding this process as they have no further information than what I have provided.

A reminder that KS3 students will have on-line assessments this half-term. Year 11 students will get their mock grades w/c 1st February; parents' evenings for Year 11 will be on 3rd February for Olney Students and 4th February for Newport Pagnell students. Year 13 trial exams will go ahead as planned w/c 22nd February, either in school if students have returned or, if not, on-line.

The testing programme in school continues using lateral flow tests, but following government advice, we are temporarily pausing the daily contact testing element of the programme, which was in place as an alternative to self-isolation for those who came into contact with a positive case in school. Staff and students who currently attend school will continue to be tested weekly but any close contacts to a positive case will be asked to self-isolate immediately.

If you need any clarification on anything, please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughters tutor or PAL.

Have a great weekend, probably another walk!

Kind regards,

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

Stuart Glover
Acting Headteacher