

Ref: RV/hw

8 January 2021

Dear Parents



Well! This has been quite a start to our new term! Having spent the last few weeks preparing for mass testing and a phased return for our pupils, we learnt that we will be in lockdown and closed to most pupils until at least the February half-term. Thank you to our great staff who have worked to support our move to whole school remote learning in such an agile way. We are hoping that the vast majority of our lessons will be through live-learning on Teams from Monday. We believe that this will improve the learning experience for pupils and will lessen the burden that home-learning placed on parents during the last lockdown. Advice on remote learning is given below.

Remote Learning Expectations

Please follow this link to watch a short video for both yourselves and your child outlining expectations and support strategies for "live" lessons:

<https://www.loom.com/share/f3614d00a65f4c35850a0d92fc7ccbe7>

- All year groups should follow their normal timetable. Lessons will be delivered live via Microsoft Teams and resources for the lesson will be posted on Show My Homework by the start of their normal lesson time.
- When a live lesson is running, pupils are expected to attend, and staff will be monitoring attendance. We are expecting that pupils have their cameras switched on so that we can monitor their engagement with their learning. Although we will strive to provide a live interaction each lesson, there may be occasions where this is not possible due to staff absence. If the lesson is not run live, then work will be available for pupils to work independently via Show My Homework. PE lessons will also be provided via SMH.
- We are required by the DfE to monitor engagement and to contact you if your child is not engaging with remote learning. You will receive a phone call if your child has not attended a live lesson, not completed the required work, or not engaged effectively in a lesson. We fully understand that there may be challenges with engaging with remote learning for a variety of reasons, please contact your child's form tutor or Year Leader if you need extra support from school.
- Extra support will also be emailed to you with tips and strategies for successful home learning

Year 11: Update on Summer Examinations

Following the statement from the Secretary for Education on 6 January 2021, we can confirm that Summer examinations for GCSE subjects will not be taking place. We await further clarity on our vocational qualifications which affects pupils studying: BTEC Music, BTEC Health and Social Care, WJEC Hospitality. The picture for these examinations is less clear, however we have taken the decision that the January Exams for our Hospitality pupils will not go ahead. We also wait for the full details of how this year's grades will be awarded. Until we can update your further upon this, we can only echo the message of the chief regulator of exams that it is imperative for our Year 11 pupils to keep learning at this time. We would like to reassure parents that the attendance of Year 11 pupils in their online lessons will be monitored closely. Here is the link to the [letter from Simon Lebus](#), Chief Regulator of Examinations.



Year 9 Parents: English Assessment

As you will be aware, children in Year 9 had been working hard to prepare for important English assessments in January 2021. The team have taken the decision to postpone these exams, until the pupils are allowed to return to face to face teaching in school. As we move to live lessons next week, English staff will be able to talk pupils through full details of the curriculum they will be following this term and to explain how the previous assessment arrangements will work at a later stage of the year.

Year 9 Parents: Options

This term sees the start of the Year 9 Option process. We shall write to you with full details of the Options timeline shortly and send information home about the different courses on offer this year. Additionally, pupils will receive their first Options Assembly in Form Time next week.

Accessing Home Learning

We appreciate that for some pupils, the movement to online learning can pose difficulties, especially where there are limitations with, or a lack of access to, suitable devices. Please contact mgeoghegan@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk if you are experiencing difficulties and we will try to provide support where possible.

Microsoft Teams can also be accessed on several other devices such as Xbox and Playstation. Instructions on how to do this will be on our website and Twitter feed.

PSHE

Please see attached information on PSHE.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Richard Varey
Headteacher