



21 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It saddens me that we are still in a period of lockdown and I have yet to be able to meet our students face to face. However, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well in a bid that we can move back to some normality soon. You will, by now have had at least one telephone call home from the school checking in with your son/daughter and their well-being - please do use these calls to raise any concerns or ask any questions that you may have. The member of staff may not have all the answers immediately, but they will then feedback to Heads of Year or class teachers.

Online Learning

When I wrote to you at the beginning of term, I explained that we have improved our online learning offer and this will continue to grow. I am aware that there are some schools offering a high number of "live" online classes following a standard timetabled day. Whilst we are growing our provision of this, there are some considerations that I believe we need to be aware of.

Offering and attendance of these lessons are two very different things. The engagement in these lessons is purely dependent on whether a child has access to a computer at that specific time. We are aware that a significant number of children share a laptop with siblings and/or parents working from home, so the pressure of needing the laptop at a given time would cause a significant pressure on the family unit. Unfortunately, at this point, we do not have a 1 to 1 device scheme that means all children have their own laptop, but this is something that we may well consider at a later point. Essentially, we must ensure that teaching is available to ALL children of Cleeve Park, not just those that are fortunate enough to have sole access to a laptop.

Each student has a personal school email address and login and password to access Google Classroom. Please stress the importance to your child in ensuring this remains confidential as if they share it, they have breached GDPR regulations which can have serious consequences.

Tracking of work

One of the things we have introduced is a tracking of the engagement of students. Every Friday, all staff are asked to log an engagement score for each child for each subject. 1- being the lowest, 2- being that they are logging on and doing some of the work, 3- being they are completing work and 4- means they are working above and beyond expectations. This is not about how highly they are scoring in assessments, but how hard they are working to complete the tasks that are being set. It is important that your child logs in via the Google Classroom and not just respond to emails.

Places for Key Workers and Vulnerable children

Throughout the pandemic we have remained open to children of Key Workers and vulnerable children. I would like to thank the staff who have come in to support our students, often putting their own children into day-care themselves. I have been pleased that we have been able to welcome children into school, but I must reiterate that if a child is able to be at home, it is currently the safest place for them to be. We see the glimmer of hope with the vaccinations, but Bexley remains high in terms of transmission.

We await news from the Government regarding being able to reopen after half term, but the week of 14th February, the school will be closed for all but emergency care only. Places will be limited and will only be

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Headteacher: Mrs Alex O'Donnell
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available once agreed with the school. More information will follow once we have clarification from the Department for Education.

Reports, Parents Evening & Options Evenings

We are very excited to be launching our online Parents' Evening events via School Cloud in the coming weeks. This will give you an opportunity to meet with staff and discuss progress and any concerns you may have.

Options Evening for year 9 and 11 is also likely to be held online where students and parents can learn about the GCSE and A-Levels that are available to them. Further information will follow in the coming week.

Parents Support with Google

And finally....I am very mindful that home-schooling is hard work for everyone involved. We are trying to ensure that the work set is compatible with independent learning by the student, with minimal involvement from parents. However, we do need your support with checking up and chasing them to the laptop!

We are very aware that Google Classroom is a very new platform and many parents are unfamiliar with it. The link below is a really helpful guide for parents to understand the basics and help guide their children to the right place.

[Parent Support Guide](#)

Once again, I look forward to meeting you in safer times,

Yours faithfully



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