

Our ref JWN/HPE/04

04 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, this evening the Prime Minister announced that the country will be going back into national lockdown.

This does not change our online teaching plans for the coming week, but does mean that those plans must now be in place for longer. From tomorrow morning, the school will only be open for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils until at least the February half-term. All other students will continue their learning at home.

Many parents and carers have requested and collected laptops today and I urge you to get in touch with school if you require a laptop to ensure your child is able to access online learning. Please do remember that parents and carers will be contacted if their child does not attend virtually – **this is different to the first national lockdown, where it was optional.** If students are not participating in online learning, a home visit will take place by either pastoral or senior staff. Please remember that if you do not have Wi-Fi access in your home, your child is able to attend school and will be fully supported in their learning.

I have yet to be given specific information around the awarding of **Year 11 exams**, therefore I must make it clear to all parents and carers that Year 11 students will need to actively attend their lessons virtually in order for us to **gather evidence of the grades** we have predicted. If students do not attend, I am afraid that teachers will only be in a position to assess children on previous tests and assessments.

Where children are entitled to free school meals, I have already asked that you contact school if you require support. At the moment, this is via a food parcel, but if this changes to a food voucher I will let you know.

I recognise this is a challenging time for everyone and my team and I greatly appreciate the ongoing support from our families and our local community. We will of course do everything possible to help minimise the disruption to learning for all our children.

I am proud of your children and how they have responded to the unprecedented adversity since March and I am proud to be supporting our community at such an important time in our history.

I will be in touch with more information as it is released, but wanted to get in touch this evening to let you know the current situation as soon as possible.

Best wishes



Mrs. Joanne Wilson

Principal

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