

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
18:00

Dear Families,

**Re: Remote learning starts tomorrow for all year groups**

I am writing to confirm that remote learning will be going ahead for all year groups as planned from tomorrow. It was absolutely brilliant seeing my colleagues again today and it was clear that they cannot wait to start teaching your children!

**Teams and remote learning**

Please see attached the guide as a reminder on how to access Teams. We would be grateful if you could remind your child that they must **go to the class channel and not the calendar. A blank calendar does not mean there are no lessons!**

Your child should have a lesson for every lesson on their timetable. However, if for any reason Teams is not working (technology has a habit of not working at times!), there is still plenty to do as an alternative. For example:

**Hegarty Maths:** This is extra Maths work for all year groups. Please see attachment for how to use it well, even when it is not something your teacher has set.

**Bedrock:** The year 7 and 8 package has various units that your child can complete. Each unit should take two days to complete. You can also access new vocabulary and cover prior knowledge. If you do not have your password, please email Miss Steadman: [karen.steadman@taw.org.uk](mailto:karen.steadman@taw.org.uk)

**Massolit:** These are English lectures for years 10 and 11 on set texts for GCSE.

On **our website**, we are compiling further useful websites for each subject that your child may want to use if Teams is not working. There will be more links over the next few days:

**Burton Borough School Website / Curriculum / Useful Websites (Covid-19)**

**BBC Bitesize:** New two-week home learning packs for each subject are now available.

**Reading book:** if the network goes down completely and you have no internet access, reading is always a positive thing to do!

We would be very grateful if you could sit with your child at the end of each day to go through the work they have done and for them to explain to you what they have learnt. We want to ensure that all students are engaged with their learning on Teams and this will be most effective if both we at school and you at home are checking!

**Mass Testing in Secondary Schools**

I attended two webinars today held by the Department of Education and Public Health England in the hope of receiving further information on mass testing in schools. Unfortunately, nothing new was shared in either webinar than what I already knew from the documents that had previously been released.

The meeting I was scheduled to have at a local level with the Local Authority was postponed to tomorrow, so I will update you on this in due course. I have compiled a list of questions to ask so that



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I can ascertain whether mass testing is safe in schools and what the accuracy of the tests are when administered by young people themselves – unfortunately, there were no answers from the webinars today.

As mentioned in my previous letter, once I feel that all the necessary information has been gathered so that families can make an informed judgement, I will put it in a format that is as easy as possible to read. I will be having an emergency meeting with governors later this week about the lateral flow tests if these are to go ahead next week following the Prime Minister's briefing at 8pm tonight.

### **Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening**

Unfortunately, we will have to cancel this week's year 9 parents'/carers' evening as from speaking to my colleagues, many students have not yet been able to book appointments with them. We were hoping that we would have been physically back in school this week when we went into the Christmas break but unfortunately circumstances have changed drastically since then. As year 9 is an incredibly important year where students choose further subjects to take at GCSE level, we have decided that postponing this evening would be better than rushing it now.

A new date will be scheduled very soon and in time for the options process so that families will have time to speak with teachers to gain a fuller understanding of what will be taught in subjects their child is interested in.

Thank you for your understanding.

With all good wishes,



Krissi Carter  
Principal



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