

Dear Parent,

As promised, we are now providing an update on teaching and support during this half term. This will be kept under review in light of the ongoing lockdown and further updates will be sent out as necessary. Further information is contained in the school's Remote Learning Policy which can be found on the policy section of the school website. We are also in the process of putting together a single page summary which will contain the key information.

### **KS 4 & 5**

All lessons will take place online in accordance with your child's timetable. It is essential that students attend all lessons; non-attendance will be followed up as part of our well-being monitoring.

### **KS3**

Students should continue to follow the online curriculum in accordance with their timetable. In addition, they will receive a weekly feedback lesson for English, maths and science and, over the course of this half term, will have 3 feedback lessons in each of their other subjects.

Part of the issue we have currently is that a significant number of teachers have primary age children but unfortunately, due to primary schools being overwhelmed by requests for key worker places, they are not being prioritised for a place. This makes the delivery of live lessons difficult and so consequently we are having to prioritise live teaching for examination classes. We also need to ensure that we have staff available to supervise those students who are in school each day. Obviously, where we can offer additional live lessons, we will do so.

### **Student well-being**

Support staff will be contacting all students in years 7 – 9 on a weekly basis to check on how they are coping and to identify any support that may be needed. Phone calls will also be made to students in years 10-13 who do not attend lessons to check that they are all right. Support will continue to be provided to students who were in receipt of 1:1 counselling from Place2Be prior to the end of the Autumn term. Place2Talk will also be available to all students who wish to speak to a counsellor. Students can request an appointment via the Place2Be email: [place2be@lordswoodtrust.co.uk](mailto:place2be@lordswoodtrust.co.uk) . Review tutors will also arrange a review with their group over the course of this half term.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a student, please use either the designated safeguarding email ([safedsl@lordswoodtrust.co.uk](mailto:safedsl@lordswoodtrust.co.uk)) or the school's safeguarding mobile: 07518 316657.

### **IT**

The IT team have provided chromebooks to all students who informed school that they did not have IT access. Unfortunately we have now issued all our stock and we have no spare devices. We did order additional chromebooks back in October, but were informed that there is a world-wide shortage; our order is currently due for delivery at the end of February! We have, however, been made aware that if you have an Xbox or Playstation you can access Google classroom and emails quite easily via a web browser such as Chrome on the Xbox/Playstation. If your child has a problem with regard to IT access, please contact Mr Machin: [w.machin@lordswoodtrust.co.uk](mailto:w.machin@lordswoodtrust.co.uk) ; there may not be an immediate solution, but we will try to do whatever we can to resolve the issue.

### **Changes to the calendar**

The year 13 mock examinations that were due to take place next week have obviously had to be postponed. We are currently proposing to run these in the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> March but this date may need to be revised depending on the length of school closure. The year 9 examinations have now been moved to 26<sup>th</sup> April. The options process will continue, albeit

remotely, and Mrs Verma will be arranging live sessions with each year 9 group to deliver the necessary information.

### **Summer examinations**

Year 11 and 13 students will be aware that this summer's examinations have now been cancelled and that schools will be asked to generate grades for students for each of their subjects. At this stage, we do not have any more information, suffice it to say, that at Lordswood, we were always of the view that the summer examinations would not take place and that it was only a matter of time before this decision was made. This does not therefore affect anything that we are doing and staff will continue to work with students to ensure that they make as much progress as possible between now and the summer, that we have robust data and, most importantly, that students are well prepared to move on to the next stage in their education. Next Thursday (14<sup>th</sup>) there is the year 11 parents' evening where you will have the opportunity to discuss your daughter's progress. Please do not ask teachers at this point to predict the grade that your daughter will achieve. Teachers will tell you whether, based on her work to date, your daughter is on track to achieve/exceed her target grade.

We will obviously share further information about GCSE/A Level grades with you as it becomes available.

### **Testing**

The Department for Education are still expecting schools to carry out testing. At this stage, there is little point in trying to launch a mass testing programme until we know when students are likely to return. We are, however, hoping that we will be able to offer tests to all those students who are currently in school and also staff who are coming into school and further information will be sent out separately in relation to this.

I hope that this update is helpful. None of us wanted to be in another lockdown situation and we are obviously concerned about the impact of a second lockdown on students' mental well-being and their education. Thank you for all your emails of support and the feedback that you have provided. Please do get in touch if there is any specific support that you feel your child needs. In the meantime, I hope that you and your family manage to remain well.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Jane Götschel**  
Headteacher