



15 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are almost two weeks into being asked to stay at home and I hope you have once again found a new routine and rhythm to life. I would like to share with you some extra support for you and your child whilst they are away from school.

### **Support with accessing online lessons**

As we move further into this period of remote learning, I am under no illusion that parents and students will find aspects of this type of learning challenging. To help you to support your child to access their online lessons, we have produced an **essential online learning guide** which we have enclosed with this letter. You can also access it online here: <https://bit.ly/38GWx3P>

To ensure your child is able to access their daily reading and weekly assembly, we have also added a helpful guide here: <https://bit.ly/3bFZa81>

Attendance at live lessons is being monitored and if your child does not attend you will receive a supportive telephone call to follow this up. Staff are also calling home each week to offer support and to give you the opportunity to raise any concerns you may have. I have made clear to our staff that if students are not behaving or engaging properly in on-line lessons, they are to be removed from the session. I am sure I can count on your support with this.

### **Safeguarding**

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please do contact the main switchboard during the school day and ask to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Parents and students may also access support through Childline 0800 1111 or the Samaritans 116 123. Extra support can also be accessed through the National Domestic Abuse helpline on 0808 2000 247.

As children are potentially spending more time online whilst they are at home, it is really important that parents/carers monitor who their children are speaking to on-line. I know it is not nice to think about, but if your child does not know the contact in person then you do not know who it is and this is potentially harmful. Please be aware of this to protect your child and block any contacts that your child does not know. The 'Think You Know' website has released some home education packs for you to use with your child. Please click on this link for further information and to access these:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

<https://annafreud.org> is also a good resource to support emotional wellbeing.

Information about how to keep your child safe can also be found on our website [here](#) and [here](#).



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Please continue to follow the government guidance - Stay at home – Protect the NHS – Save lives.

This week some newspapers have suggested that there may well be mini exams for Year 11 and Year 13 students in the Summer Term. We cannot control what is written in the press about what will happen to Year 11 and Year 13. These students have been exceptional so far in engaging with their learning. They just need to keep going. At the point that we have confirmed guidance, we will share with you exactly what we will be doing.

Finally – to all of our students. We are so very proud of you. So many of your teachers have shared with me how well you have been engaging with your lessons. It is so important that you keep going right now. We miss seeing you every day and look forward to your return to school.

Yours sincerely

Alison Merrills  
**Principal**

**Principal:** Alison Merrills

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