

February 12th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a long and difficult half term and I know that you must feel as exhausted as I do. I would like to thank my teachers for their superb efforts in delivering live lessons every day and keeping the school open for key worker and vulnerable students. Thanks must also go to the students who have been remarkable in displaying extraordinary resilience to get through this; I know how difficult it must be for them not to see their friends. Finally I must thank you, the parents and carers who have had to juggle looking after your children, with going to work and helping with their learning: you are fantastic. I hope everyone can relax a little this half term and prepare for whatever we have to face in the future.

Return to School

The government will announce their plans for pupils to return to school on Monday, February 22nd. We will continue to deliver our full programme of remote lessons after half term and would expect all students to engage with their normal lessons each day.

Mass Testing of Staff and Students

When we do return it is expected that we will be required to test all students twice before they return to school. We have been testing staff and students who are in school twice a week since January and have administered over 1500 tests all, apart from one, have been negative and that one was on the very first morning on January 5th. The testing has meant no one has had to isolate and the school has stayed open. It will be essential, if we are to open the school, that we can do so safely and the testing of students and wearing of masks alongside all our other Covid measures will play a vital part in this. We will post a video of how we do the testing at school on the website after half term.

Year 11 GCSE Exams

On Monday February 22nd we should know what the government has decided in relation to the summer GCSE examinations and how grades will be awarded. My advice remains for all Year 11 students to maintain a high level of engagement with our remote learning offer and keep working hard using all the revision materials we have provided this year. As soon as we know more we will develop our plans to support the students.

Year 9 GCSE Options

There is now a dedicated page on the academy website with information about the GCSE option choices for Year 9. On this web page you will also find a recording of Mr Neill's presentation that explains the process. All students should have received a choices form which needs to be completed. We will then arrange to meet with parents and students after half term to discuss final choices.

<http://weyvalley-academy.co.uk/parents/options/>

Wey Valley Academy

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Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening

The online Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 25th February. You will receive a letter and instructions on how to book appointments.

Stationery Packs for Students

We still have a good supply of free stationery packs for students. If you wish to collect one of these packs please contact reception to arrange a time to do so.

Laptops and data SIMS

We still have a few laptops available for students to use and some 4G data SIMS card, so if your child does not have a suitable device (a phone is not a suitable device) for accessing remote learning please get in contact with Mrs Parkes, Assistant Vice Principal

parkesl@weyvalley-academy.co.uk

Dorset County Coronavirus helpline for Parents and Carers

Dorset have useful websites that provides links to all types of advice and support at this difficult time. Please follow the links below:

<https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/2021/01/12/coronavirus-helpline-for-parents-and-carers-2/>

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/get-help-for-your-family/family-information-service.aspx>

Staying Safe Online

This week was National Online Safety Week and we did work with students in lessons on this. I have attached two links for parents and carers that help explain how to keep children safe online:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

I hope you are all staying safe and well. Have a restful half term.

Yours faithfully



Rob Russell
Principal

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