



**Headteacher: Mr D. Williams**  
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Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parent / carer,

As you will now be aware the government has announced a national lockdown and a move to remote learning for most pupils. Our remote learning system, which operates via Google Classroom, is now in place and staff are already delivering their lessons online. This started for all pupils today and will continue each school day throughout the period of lockdown.

**Remote Learning:** Form tutors will meet their forms online at 9am every school day and pupils are expected to engage fully with their learning throughout each school day. Teachers will be available on Google Classroom for each of their timetabled slots with your child and will be closely monitoring your child's learning and engagement throughout so their education can continue as effectively as possible. We will, of course, rely heavily on ensuring that the pupils are accessing and engaging with their learning from home and staff will be in touch if they are concerned about this. That said, we do understand that there may be issues which prevent your child from engaging at any particular time and we ask that you inform the school in advance if this is the case.

**Support:** I am fully aware of the pressure this is putting upon you at this time and have been immensely grateful for the support and cooperation you have shown over this past year. We will of course continue to work together at this challenging time so please do get in touch if you require any support or advice with home learning. Remote access does of course depend totally on having the adequate technology at home – we are able to support with this and are already lending laptops to pupils who require them; once again please do get in touch if technology is an issue for you and we will help in any way we can.

**Critical Worker/ Vulnerable Provision:** As a school we are still open for the children of critical workers and those considered vulnerable. We have some staff and children in school on a daily basis and will continue to offer this provision to families who require it. These children will have ICT access in school and will be supervised by staff. They will need to bring their own equipment (including headphones) and they will now NOT be required to wear school uniform. We will need to have a clear idea of which pupils will be attending the critical worker provision and on which days so please contact Mr Jones if you are a critical worker and you wish to add your child to this provision, either full-time or for specific days. We have already included those pupils who are in school today and will log these pupils onto our system for full-time attendance throughout the period of lockdown unless we hear otherwise. If your child was in school today but does not require this provision every day then please email Mr Jones to let him know. Mr Jones will be coordinating this provision throughout lockdown and can be contacted directly via email on [STAFFNJ@WEOBLEYHIGH.CO.UK](mailto:STAFFNJ@WEOBLEYHIGH.CO.UK).



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High School

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**Year 11:** One of the most significant outcomes of yesterday's announcement was that GCSE examinations would not be continuing in their current form this year. I can't help but feel a great deal of disappointment for our Year 11 pupils in the light of this and do want to reassure them that we will be doing all we can to ensure that they will not lose out as a result of this. As soon as we are informed how grades will be awarded, then we will be working hard to implement any new systems of assessment or centre-assessed grading as smoothly as possible. Last year, grades were based on evidence of achievement in a variety of forms. I imagine that will be the case this year too, although there is still scope for additional formal assessment and exams to be part of this. It will obviously be more important than ever for Year 11 pupils to continue to engage with their learning online as teachers will want to give pupils the best possible opportunities to achieve in the coming weeks – every piece of work could make a difference. I will be in touch with Year 11 pupils again about this as soon as we know more.

**Free School Meals:** We have not yet received specific detail on this however we know that we will be expected to continue providing benefits-related free school meals to pupils, whether they are in school or not. This may be via a voucher system as we did during the previous lockdown. We will be in touch again about this shortly once we have more information on how this will work.

Finally, thank you once again for your ongoing support. This has been an incredibly trying time for all of us but it has been eased significantly by the spirit which is shared across our school community. I will continue to communicate with you via these emails and our website but please do get in touch with the school via email if you have any questions, queries or concerns. As always, we will do our best to help.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams