

26 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

Weekly Update – w/c 25 January 2021

We are now over half way through this half term and we are starting to evaluate how our home learning and in school provision is going. This is so that we can make further improvements whilst we await updated guidance from the government regarding when and how schools will be reopened.

Thankfully, our current number of positive Covid-19 cases in our school community remains low. Last week 3 new cases were reported to the school.

Home Learning Arrangements:

- Since the beginning of this term we have seen a significant increase in the number of students who are actively engaged, attending live lessons and submitting their work within 24 hours of the lesson. Overall, the school's engagement figure for attendance was 81% last week and we are working hard to increase this number further.
- Last week, the school held a parent/carer workshop to offer help on home learning. Some helpful feedback was shared and this has been passed on to curriculum areas to follow up.
- This Wednesday and Thursday we will have a break in live lessons during periods 4 and 5. This is to allow staff time to prepare for and conduct the Y11 Parent Consultation Evening which takes place on Thursday. It is also an opportunity for students to complete some learning that does not involve looking at a computer screen. Teachers will be sharing on their Google Classrooms some ideas for students to engage with.
- We are conscious that students and teachers are spending a large amount of time each day looking at a computer screen and next week we will be communicating how we will be making some adjustments to our home learning offer to allow students to complete activities which are not all computer based.
- As part of the process of evaluating how our home learning arrangements are going, we will be sending home a Google Form Survey next week asking for parent/carers feedback. A student survey will also be conducted and the result of both will be shared with parent/carers and students.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Student Provision:

- On Friday, a further letter was sent to all parent/carers about students who are currently attending school. Thank you for the communication we have already received from parent/carers. I am sure that by working with each other we can ensure that the onsite provision can cater for the current demand.
- We appreciate that our Key Worker parent/carers need the school to be open as normal this week. Therefore, on Wednesday we will continue with a normal school day and on Thursday we will finish at 1.55pm. Where live lessons are not taking place the school will run other activities in school.

Free School Meals:

- This week further improvements were made to the food hampers. It has been heartening to receive positive comments from parent/carers about the improvements that have been made over the last two weeks. There also seems to be an appreciation for the staff who are working hard to make sure food hampers are delivered on the correct day.

www.wellingschool-tkat.org

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Student Absence:

- Following my message about continuing to report student absence there has been an increase in the number of parent/carers contacting the school. Where we know that a child is ill or unable to complete work on that day, their name is being communicated to all staff.

Other updates:

- At the start of this week we launched a new engagement tracker which captures data on how well students are accessing live lessons and submitting their work. Through written communication and the welfare calls that have been taking place we will follow up with parent/carers to make sure that you know what your child is doing and find out if there are any barriers to their learning that we need to support them with.
- Another important aspect of our work during this lockdown are the phone calls that are being made on a daily basis. Via these phone calls, the school has received a number of positive comments and these are shared with all staff each day in our Daily Staff Bulletin. By now all parent/carers should have received at least one phone call. Depending on individual needs, more calls have been made. If the school has still not had a conversation with you, please follow up with your child's Head of Year or Care & Guidance Assistant. You can also send a message to enquiries@wellingschool-tkat.org.
- A reminder that all Year 11 parent/carers should have booked their appointment times with their child's classroom teachers. The Consultation Evening is taking place on Thursday 28 January from 1.00pm – 4.45pm. If you have any queries or concerns please contact the Year 11 Team.
- Work is progressing on Year 9 Options but we are not yet in a position to share what the process will look like this year. A further update will now be sent out next week.

Finally, please can I encourage all parent/carers to regularly visit our Twitter page, details of which are on the letterhead. You do not need to have a Twitter account to view the page and here you will find our latest communication with home and also interesting updates of what students are currently doing at home or in school.

As always, please can I reiterate our commitment to work with all our parent/carers to do what we can to support your child during these challenging times. Contact with the school can be made via the central school office at enquiries@wellingschool-tkat.org or you can contact staff directly via their email address, a list of which is on the school website.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Pett
Headteacher