

11 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

Weekly Update – w/c 11 January 2021

As I am sure you will appreciate, we had a very busy first week back making sure that the school was prepared to deal with the challenges of a longer closure to schools. This morning, the senior team met to review the first week and we implemented a number of changes aimed at improving how we support your child during this lockdown. This letter will outline some of these changes.

The most significant news last week was that exams scheduled for this summer will not go ahead as planned. I have written a separate letter today to all students who are directly affected by this decision. However, for all students, this second closure of schools is significant and we are aware of the impact that this closure could have on your child. Therefore, we have reorganised teams so that staff are working with all year groups and we are working towards the expectation that all parent/carers are contacted to see how your child is doing, and this will be followed up by further individual phone calls or emails.

Home Learning Arrangements:

- Since the start of this term we have implemented a new approach to home learning that incorporates a 'live learning' component to lessons. This started last week for Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13. Today this approach is being rolled out to all year groups.
- The communication we have had from parent/carers has been excellent and I hope that those parent/carers that contacted the school feel that their queries have been answered. In some cases we received enquiries about there not being enough work. We are working hard to make sure all parent/carers understand the new expectations around home learning and Mrs Major, Deputy Headteacher will write to all parent/carers this week with more details.
- Now that students are receiving 'live learning' they need to be online on Google Classroom following their normal timetable. To make every day the same, from this week onwards the timings for Wednesday will revert to those of the rest of the week. If students do not know their timetable, please contact the school as important learning takes place in the first 15 minutes of each lesson and students will not be able to access this part of the lesson later in the day. Students also need to spend time working independently through the Google Slides set by staff and completing all of the tasks set before submitting the assignment set by staff. If students follow these steps there should be plenty of work for your child to complete each lesson. However, if you still believe that this is not the case, please contact the school and we will look into the work that has been set for your child.
- We know that in some households there are multiple children trying to get online at the same time to access lessons. Therefore, the offer remains for parent/carers to contact the school if your child is struggling to access online learning and we will work with you to find a solution.
- From next week we will also be communicating to parent/carers how well students are engaging with home learning. We know that for each child there will be different reasons for their level of engagement which is why we want to work with you to understand the reasons and support you and your child.

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Key Worker and Vulnerable Student Provision:

- Last week we welcomed around 25 students of key worker parent/carers and/or vulnerable into school. This week the number is around 40. Students are in computer rooms following their normal timetable and completing lessons via Google Classroom in the same way as those students at home.
- We hope that the offer of a hot meal in school will be taken up by all students as we recognise the importance of students eating well, particularly during these cold months.

Free School Meals:

- Today a number of staff are involved in the delivery of food hampers to eligible families. This is quite a significant undertaking with well over 100 hampers being delivered and around 30 being collected today alone. We hope that parents/carers are appreciative of the food provided. It is likely that we will continue with these weekly deliveries and we would really appreciate it if all parent/carers who we contact about FSMs confirm with the school whether they are able to collect their hamper or would like it delivered. There remain a number of parent/carers who have not contacted the school and we are calling all of these today so that we make sure that every child who is eligible for FSM receives their food.

Reporting Covid-19 Cases:

- Last week, Ms Otti wrote to all parent/carers to remind them that they still need to contact the school if your child tests positive to Covid-19. As a school we are still required to update the Local Authority and the Department for Education.

Other updates:

- January exams that were scheduled to take place have been happening and in addition to our Key Worker and Vulnerable Students we have had a number of students attending school to complete masterclasses before their exam. I know that all staff that have been delivering these masterclasses have been very impressed by the mature attitude and engagement students have shown.
- From Friday this week we will be reintroducing our school bulletin for all students and parent/carers. The format will be slightly different from before. We will be producing one every two weeks that will go to all year groups. This lockdown will not diminish our school community and now more than ever we want to be able to share with the whole community what students are doing both in school and at home. Ms Gooch, Director of Learning, is leading on the publication of this. If parent/carers would like to send in good news stories or achievements of their child please send these to jesenia.gooch@wellingschool-tkat.org.

To finish, 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 school enquiries@wellingschool-tkat.org or you can contact staff directly via their email address, a list of which is on the school website.

I wish all parent/carers a successful week. We recognise that the addition of 'live learning' for all students may raise additional stresses or queries. If so, please just get in touch with the school.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Pett
Headteacher