

10 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

Weekly Update – w/c 8 February 2021

We have reached the last week of this half term and despite the snow both our in school provision and online learning have continued. I would like to particularly thank the staff who have been in school this week. Conditions to and from school have been difficult but these staff have changed their travel plans to get into school. On Friday we will also be sending out our next Student Bulletin. The theme is LGBT+ History Month which takes place throughout the month of February.

Thankfully, our current number of positive Covid-19 cases in our school community continue to remain low. Last week, 1 new case was reported to the school.

Home Learning Arrangements:

Thank you for the positive feedback we have received about the introduction of the well-being Wednesdays. We have heard about some great stories of how students have maximised their time away from a computer screen.

Thank you also to the parent/carers and students who completed the online survey. After half term I will share the results of these surveys. This week, we will be sharing with staff all of the positive comments that were written about staff. I know that these comments will give staff a boost as they look to start their half term.

Student engagement with live lessons and submission of work within 24 hours was slightly down last week at 79%.

Please can I thank all parent/carers for their support with home learning. I am proud of what the staff of Welling School have been able to achieve in the last 5 weeks. Notably there have been more than 7300 live lessons and many more thousands of work submitted by students. The school has also provided over 200 Google Chromebooks to assist with home learning.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Student Provision:

In line for government guidance, the provision will be closed over February half term.

Please can I remind any parent/carers who are a key worker and have their child in provision that they need to reapply for a place after half term.

Free School Meals:

Our delivery of FSM Hampers this week have been disrupted by the snow and therefore vouchers have been issued instead. We have had a considerable amount of food that we have been unable to deliver and this will be taken to Bexley Food Bank in Welling in order to be distributed to the local community.

www.wellingschool-tkat.org

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Our weekly delivery of FSM Hampers has now passed 1500. This has been a challenge for our staff who are part of the team but the overwhelming positive has been the opportunity to work more closely with our school community. I hope that the strengthened relations that have been made will benefit students when school returns.

The school has received an update from the Local Authority regarding FSM vouchers over half term. Mr K Taylor, Head of Place Planning, Admissions, Major Projects & Transport has said:

The vouchers that the Council provided to cover the Christmas and February half term holidays have an expiry date by which they need to be spent and in the majority of cases this is 11 March 2021 and we are therefore requesting that you write to the families who received these vouchers to bring to their attention that they have an expiry and that they download their codes and redeem these voucher in good time in order to avoid them expiring. Unfortunately, as the grant, which has funded these, is time limited the Council would be unable to replace any vouchers that expire.

Home School Communications:

Our communication with home during this lockdown has been an important and significant undertaking. Currently, over 3500 phone calls have been made. In addition to these phone calls, the school receives on a daily basis a high number of email queries. The school is committed to working with parent/carers and if you do not receive a response, either by email or phone, I encourage you to get back in touch with the school.

Virtual Tutor Time:

After half term we will begin a programme of virtual tutor time for all students on Google Classroom as an opportunity for students to interact with their tutor, tutor group and Head of Year. The first tutor period will take place during period 1 on **Monday 22 Feb (the first day back) and thereafter they will be on Mondays from 8.35 - 8.55**. Please ask your child to join their tutor group google classroom by finding the class code on our website <https://www.wellingschool-tkat.org/page/?title=Google+Classroom+Codes&pid=1142>.

KS3 Reports:

Reports for the Autumn term have now gone out for Year 7 and Year 8. Year 9 will follow after half term alongside information on this year's GCSE Options process.

Year 9 Options:

The Option Pathways with our curriculum offer for September 2021 have been agreed. An Options Booklet has been created and teaching staff have recorded information videos about their GCSE courses. A separate letter will be going out to Year 9 parent/carers before half term.

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

I hope that you and your families have a safe and restful half term.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Pett
Headteacher