

1 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

Weekly Update – w/c 1 February 2021

Last week the Government confirmed that schools in England will not reopen until 8 March at the earliest. Education settings, as well as students and parents/carers will be given at least two weeks' notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education. Schools will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as they are now. All other students will continue to receive remote learning at home.

On Friday we sent out to all parent/carers our latest Student Bulletin. I would encourage all parent/carers to look at the resources around well-being. We know that for young people the current way of working can add additional stress. It is important that if your child is finding things difficult that they know support is out there. One of the best ways you can support your child is to ask them how they are doing and reassure them that it is okay to speak about how they are feeling. Parent/carers can also contact the school if they would like more support.

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:

- Student engagement with live lessons and submission of work within 24 hours continued to improve and last week the overall engagement figure was 83%.
- How we share with parent/carers their child's engagement in home learning is something we have been working on over the last two weeks. Collating this information has presented some challenges but we are committed to sharing more information with parent/carers. We recognise that many students are doing really well with home learning and it is important that parent/carers are given this information. Before half term we will be sharing your child's engagement in home learning across a range of subjects. After half term we will be reporting this information twice a half term. We hope parent/carers find this information helpful and we would welcome your feedback.
- As a school we are continually reviewing how we are supporting our students and it is important that we consider feedback from parent/carers and students. Therefore, I would like to ask that you complete the following parent/carer survey:

<https://forms.gle/aqqnxkrZL9UN75iB9>

The deadline to complete this is Monday 8 February 2021. In addition to questions about home learning we are also interested to know how your child is coping and if there are specific queries you would like to raise with the school. We have tried to make the form simple and quick to complete and you are able to leave more detailed feedback at the end of the survey. Results of this and the student survey will be shared after half term. A separate letter will go out today which also includes the student survey.

- We are committed to giving students and staff a break in the week where home learning is able to continue but there will not be the requirement to be online. We are calling this our Wellbeing Wednesday and from this week there will be activities set on Google Classroom for periods 4 and 5. Teachers will not be delivering live lessons and the expectation is that students will undertake activities that do not require

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them to look at a computer screen. We will run these Wellbeing Wednesdays for a number of weeks and review how this is working for the school.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Student Provision:

- In line for government guidance, the provision will be closed over February half term.
- On Friday a letter was sent to all parent/carers who have children that are part of the provision. If you are a Key Worker, parent/carers need to reapply for a place in the provision after half term. The letter provides information on what to do.
- Wellbeing Wednesdays will also take place for students in the provision. With staff they will be working on specifically designed projects which will also allow them to learn away from a computer screen.

Free School Meals:

- The school is continuing to deliver food hampers each week. Over February half term there will not be a food hamper or voucher provided by the school. Instead support is being provided by Local Authorities through the Covid Winter Grant Scheme. This means the same arrangements that were in place for the Christmas break will apply. We are expecting Local Authorities to communicate with parent/carers and if the school receives further updates we will share these.

Student Absence:

- Please continue to contact the school if your child is ill and unable to engage with home learning.

KS3 Reports:

- Reports for the Autumn term are being prepared and sent out this week and next for Year 7 and 8 parent/carers. With your child's report is a document which explains how we report on students' progress.

Year 9 Options:

- Arrangements regarding the Year 9 Options process have been finalised and we are currently working on resources that will be shared with students in order to help them understand which pathway they will be following at Key Stage 4 and the impact this has on option choices available to them. Further information which outlines next steps will be communicated with Year 9 parent/carers, and Year 9 reports will be shared as part of this process.

Other updates:

- Thank you to all Year 11 parent/carers that spoke with their child's classroom teacher last Thursday. This was the first time we have conducted Parent Consultation Evening remotely and we have been pleased how well it went. If parent/carers, who were part of this, have any further feedback please share this with the Year 11 Team. It is likely that for the remainder of this academic year Parent Consultation Evenings will also be remotely. After half term we will confirm dates for all other year groups.

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.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Pett
Headteacher