

20 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

## Weekly Update – w/c 18 January 2021

I hope that you have had a chance to review the bi-weekly Student Bulletin that went out on Friday last week. Staff have been very impressed with how hard students have been working both in school and at home, and the Bulletin is a great way to recognise students' efforts.

On Monday this week we introduced in-school testing for Key Worker & Vulnerable Students and members of staff. You may have seen that testing has been in the news. As a school we will continue to adapt as required and in advance of any wider opening of schools we will communicate how testing would work.

### Home Learning Arrangements:

- Last week Ms Major, Deputy Headteacher, wrote to all parent/carers with further information about home learning. We have also put together a *Frequently Asked Questions* that is attached to this letter. We hope that if you still have any questions regarding home learning these will be answered.
- Mr Gibbons, Director of Learning, will also be running a Parent/Carer Workshop this evening regarding home learning. This workshop begins at 6.00pm. Please click on this link if you would like to attend: [meet.google.com/sxm-boji-vtz](https://meet.google.com/sxm-boji-vtz).

### Key Worker and Vulnerable Student Provision:

- We are concerned that over the last week there has been increased demand for places in school. Additional students attending puts both students and staff at greater risk and it is important that every parent/carer who has a child accessing the provision considers carefully whether they need the provision.
- The Government message is clear that during this lockdown everyone should stay at home. If one parent/carer in the household is not a key worker, and he or she is able to stay at home and look after the child, your child should stay at home. This is because the purpose of the government's policy is to reduce the number of social interactions, with staying at home being one of the most effective ways of doing this.
- A more detailed letter will be sent by Mr Loizou to parent/carers of students accessing the provision.

### Free School Meals:

- The school has worked hard with our catering provider to improve the overall quality of the food parcels. Included with these new parcels are recipe ideas as to how to use the produce. From next week the parcels will also include an additional breakfast parcel.
- We believe that the parcels delivered this week are significantly better and I am grateful for the feedback we have received. If you do have any further queries do contact the school.
- Logistically it takes the school a few days to deliver all of the food parcels. Each day we have staff delivering food parcels on different routes. Again, if you need confirmation of what day your food parcel will be delivered please contact the school.

### Student Absence:

- Thank you to all parent/carers who have continued to contact the school regarding a student positive case of Covid-19. We are thankful that in the last week we have only had one student case reported to the school.

[www.wellingschool-tkat.org](http://www.wellingschool-tkat.org)

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- We would also like parent/carers to continue to contact the school if your child is not well enough to attend either the 'live learning' of their lessons or submit their work. We have a comprehensive picture of student engagement and if we are not aware why your child is not engaging with home learning we are following up.
- We would prefer if parent/carers could contact the school via email rather than phoning the absence line. The email address to report your child as 'absent' is [attendance@wellingschool-tkat.org](mailto:attendance@wellingschool-tkat.org).

**Other updates:**

- The week commencing Monday 1 February is Mental Health Week. We will be doing a number of things during this week to raise awareness.
- As a result of completing lessons from home we know that both staff and students are spending considerably more time in front of a screen. We all need to be mindful of this and I would ask that you ensure your child takes breaks, and that after school they complete other activities that do not involve looking at a screen.
- On Thursday 28 January we will be holding virtual or telephone Year 11 Parent Consultations. In light of changes to exams it is vital that all parent/carers arrange times to meet virtually or via telephone with your child's subject teacher. Ms Sangster, Deputy Headteacher will be communicating how this will work. There will also be an impact on the wider school as on Wednesday 27 January we will be halting live lessons for periods 4 and 5. This is to allow time for Year 11 teachers to plan for these meetings. On Thursday 28 January there will not be any live lessons for periods 4 and 5 as consultation appointments will be taking place. In advance of Wednesday next week we will share ideas of how we would like students to use their time during these period 4 and 5 lessons.
- For students in Year 9 this is an important time of the year when they start to consider what options they would like to take for their GCSEs. In school we are planning how we will do this and next week further information will be shared.

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 school [enquiries@wellingschool-tkat.org](mailto: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**

# Welling School

## Home Learning - Frequently Asked Questions

### **What should my child expect from home Learning?**

All lessons will take place online, using Google Classroom. The school day will follow the usual timings and timetable as if students were in school. Wednesdays are now the same as other week days.

Each lesson will begin with an introduction from the class teacher. This will usually last around 15 - 20 minutes and will include the teaching aspect, instructions for tasks and any demonstrations. Students will then work independently and can use the chat function to ask any questions.

### **How does my child access live lessons?**

Your child must first log in to their Google account [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com). There they will be able to select the lesson they need to attend by clicking the + symbol at the top of the Google Classroom page and by selecting 'join class'. Enter the class code for the lesson (these can be found on the school website under 'Student Home Study').

### **Should my child use cameras and microphones during the live stage of the lesson?**

Your child is not required to have access to a microphone or camera as they can communicate via the chat function. Cameras are not permitted to be switched on during the live sessions.

### **What time do lessons start?**

Period 1 - 8.55

Period 2 - 9.55

Period 3 - 11.25

Period 4 - 12.25 (Year 7,8,9,12 & 13), 12.55 (Year 10 & 11)

Period 5 - 13.55

### **How does my child 'hand in their work'?**

Your child will complete their written work in Google Slides. Once finished they press the 'hand in' function and it will go directly to their teacher. Your child must hand in their work within 24 hours of the lesson.

### **How will my child get feedback on their work?**

Once your child hands in their work their teacher will give them written feedback using the comment box function. The feedback will focus on what they have done well and also importantly, how to improve their work. Teachers may ask for the work to be resubmitted after improvement. Your child may also receive a mark where appropriate.

### **How can my child get in touch with their teacher when the lesson has finished?**

If your child needs additional help, advice or assistance from their subject teacher they can use the private comment function on the assessment. Staff should only be contacted between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Staff will be receiving a huge number of emails from families and students and are teaching all day so please allow them time to respond.

### **Do parent/carers need to let the school know if their child is unwell and not able to access remote learning that day?**

We do require you to contact the school in the normal way if your child is unwell. The easiest way to do this is via email ([attendance@wellingschool-tkat.org](mailto:attendance@wellingschool-tkat.org)). The school is following up on students who are not present for the live aspect of the lesson or do not submit their work. Your child may try to revisit lessons they have missed for a short absence as they will stay available in the 'stream'. Please also continue to contact the school if your child receives a positive Covid-19 test.

### **What happens if my child forgets their password?**

In the event that your child cannot remember their password or if they have difficulties in accessing their account please email [enquires@wellingschool-tkat.org](mailto:enquires@wellingschool-tkat.org) and they will forward the message to the IT department.

### **What if my child needs help with their timetable or understanding what set/class they are in?**

For any queries relating to timetables or groups please email [enquires@wellingschool-tkat.org](mailto:enquires@wellingschool-tkat.org) and they will forward the message to the relevant member of staff who can help you.

### **Why might my child not be able to open their work or gain access to a lesson?**

Sometimes the device you are using will try to open things with your personal accounts or email which are not compatible and will not work. Try removing your personal accounts from your device and start by logging into your school account first.

### **My child does not have access to remote learning at home, including internet access, what can I do?**

If your child does not have access to a device through which they can learn remotely or if they are experiencing problems with internet access please contact [enquires@wellingschool-tkat.org](mailto:enquires@wellingschool-tkat.org) with your child's name and year group.

### **Who should I contact if my child is having problems with the device I have borrowed from Welling School?**

If your child has issues with any equipment they have borrowed from us then please get in touch with IT technical support by email [enquires@wellingschool-tkat.org](mailto:enquires@wellingschool-tkat.org) or by telephoning the main reception.

**Useful Links**  
**(Additional Information & Resources)**

**TKAT 'how to' Videos On Using Google Classroom:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEJsUkAkQtw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWoUBuouSpE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtZkXDrhjrQ>

**Additional Reading For Pleasure:**

<https://openlibrary.org/> - Has a lot of titles you can 'borrow' and audio books too. You just need to make a log in.

<http://www.childrenslibrary.org/icdl/SimpleSearchCategory?ilang=English> - Books for ages up to 13.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/> - For students who struggle with reading independently.

**GCSE English Literature Set Texts Online (free access):**

**A Christmas Carol** - <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/46/46-h/46-h.htm>

**An Inspector Calls** - <https://www.cncs.school/MainFolder/faculties/english/NEW/Revision-Materials/English-Literature/Component-2/An-inspector-calls/AIC-Full-Play.pdf>

**Macbeth** - <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/macbeth/full.html>

**Maths:**

<https://hegartymaths.com/>

**Science:**

<https://app.senecalearning.com/>

**KS3** - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p>

**KS4** - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv>