



**15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your family are safe and well. I fully appreciate how unsettling this time is for everyone.

The first week of remote learning has been productive, most pupils are successfully and actively engaging with their teachers via the remote learning lessons. Feedback from pupils working in the building has been positive: they are engaging well with their teachers in the live lessons, as are pupils at home. We will be teaching and learning remotely until at least half term, it is really important for your child to continue to their learning as this will affect their future progress, please stress the importance and encourage your child to fully engage with the programme in place. Your child should contact their Head of Year if they have any concerns. It is a difficult time for all of the pupils and we are keen to help with any organisational or technical problems as well as offering regular contact. The Year Teams are also available to offer pastoral support as necessary.

Thank you for the many positive comments we have received so far from our families. It is very reassuring to know that pupils are finding the lessons easy to access and that they feel well supported at home.

### **Attendance**

Attendance and engagement with remote learning has been good however, there is an expectation that pupils check in with their Year Team each morning and attend their full timetable of daily lessons. The small minority of pupils who are not engaging need reminding how vital it is to engage with their schoolwork. Any time missed from online lessons will inevitably mean that they risk falling behind their peers and their progress will suffer. I must also remind pupils of our school values of Respect and ask that students only attend their own lessons, they attend on time and do not attempt to access other sessions; this will help to limit the risk of any disruption to the learning of others.

### **Pupil Illness**

Please let us know in advance of lessons if your child is not well enough to attend, attendance staff will be in touch if your child does not attend their lessons.

### **COVID**

If your child tests positive for COVID or has developed possible symptoms, please use the [covid@reddish.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:covid@reddish.stockport.sch.uk) email addresses to notify us as we are still required to inform the Department for Education.

### **Free school meals**

We continue to provide vouchers for families entitled to free school meals and will move to the government run scheme from 18<sup>th</sup> January. Please can you ensure we have accurate contact and

email details in order for us to be able to deliver the vouchers directly and promptly. If these details have changed, please contact us on [schoolclosure@reddish.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:schoolclosure@reddish.stockport.sch.uk)

### **Public Examinations**

Following the DFE'S announcement about the cancellation of GCSE and scheduled assessments for vocational examinations, we await further information on how these will be awarded. I urge all the pupils to engage fully with school, to enjoy their learning and to work hard to complete the syllabuses. They will then, whatever system for awarding grades is ultimately decided upon, be in the best possible position moving forwards. It is more important now than ever that pupils continue to work hard, as any grades awarded will take into account the work done in their remote learning, as well as any prior assessments.

### **School Issued Devices**

Our current supply of laptops have been dispatched however, I will endeavour to continue to support those families that still need devices once I receive further supplies. If you have borrowed ICT equipment from school please be aware that the expectations for the use of the device is the same as if you were using it in school:

- Do not search for, or visit, any sites that may contain inappropriate content
- Do not use the device for communicating on social media
- Be aware that due to the installed tracking software, anything inappropriate that is typed or appears on the screen will trigger an alert at school and home will be contacted
- Please treat the equipment with care and respect as it remains the property of the school.

### **Coronavirus Tests**

As I mentioned in my previous communications, in line with national guidance, we have developed a testing facility within school to allow us to administer 'lateral flow' tests for Coronavirus. This testing programme is voluntary. Parental consent is required for pupils who are under 16. I will write afresh with further details of this testing programme depending on the most current government guidance in advance of pupils returning to school.

### **Forthcoming Events**

**Parents Evening Year 10:** The planned parents evening for the first week of term has been rescheduled to the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and will continue via school cloud. Please can I remind parents of year 10 pupils to book an appointment with subject teachers as soon as possible.

### **Support and contacts**

If you do need support at home, or you are struggling with accessing your learning please contact your Head of Year in the first instance:

If your child has Special Educational Needs and need support for them, please contact our SENCO Miss S Watts by email on [s.watts@reddish.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:s.watts@reddish.stockport.sch.uk)

For any Safeguarding concerns, please contact Mr A Perry on [a.perry@reddish.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:a.perry@reddish.stockport.sch.uk)

For general help or enquiries, including support for free school meals, please contact us via [schoolclosure@reddish.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:schoolclosure@reddish.stockport.sch.uk)

If you require support with remote learning email [googleclassrooms@reddish.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:googleclassrooms@reddish.stockport.sch.uk)

Take care and stay safe

*Linda Hanson*