

January 2021

Dear Parent, Carer and Pupils

We are most certainly living through incredibly challenging times and the impact on all of our lives is huge. Although the school building is currently only open to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers, Westborough is still most definitely here for all pupils, parents and carers.

Remote Education

Teaching staff are following their own timetables and delivering a combination of live lessons and live interactions for their specific classes. I absolutely appreciate how difficult home schooling is, but if you could please encourage your child to follow their timetable, then teachers can help and support with any difficulties pupils may have during their lesson. Also it is really important that pupils have the correct equipment, including pens, pencils, ruler and paper. If you require any support with this, please contact school.

This system is already working extremely well and the majority of pupils are settling quickly into this new way of education. I would also like to reassure you that the standard of learning remains very high; indeed, I have just spoken to the Team Leader of Creative Arts who was enthusiastic about Year 8 Drama in which pupils were working on a speech from Shakespeare's Richard the Third! Our staff are so impressed with pupils' focus in lessons describing them as 'super,' 'polite' and 'brilliant.'

Year 11

It is an especially difficult time for Year 11 and I am so impressed with how you, as young adults, have responded to the disruption to your education. It is really important that you maintain your focus and continue to engage with your remote learning.

We are still waiting to hear how you will be assessed, but:

- Your hard work will still be recognised and reflected in your final grade
- It will not matter if your grades come from an Ofqual introduced change or approach; you
 will still be able to go onto Post-16 studies and/or employment.
- None of your ambitions for the future will be affected by this decision.
- Keep motivated, keep working and keep believing in yourself we all do!

Continued .../2

Attendance

As part of the Government's recording of attendance during this lockdown period, it is important that you continue to let school know if your child is displaying symptoms of, or has tested positive for, COVID-19 or has been told to self-isolate either due to a member of the household displaying symptoms or testing positive, or they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive. To inform the school, please text us on 07444 400875 with your child's name and form, as well as the reason for the absence as soon as you become aware. We may then contact you for further information. We will also inform your child's class teachers so that they are aware that your child may not be accessing their lessons remotely.

Covid-19 mass testing programme in schools

We are currently working through a number of models in line with the DFE to develop this initiative. In order to support the school with the introduction of testing, we are seeking the support of volunteers who have the experience, skill or interest in developing the testing workforce in school. If you are interested, please email office@w-h-s.org.uk

Communication

Clear communication between home and school is very important and we have reception staff available to answer your calls on 01924 469549 between 8.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. In addition, pastoral staff will be making 'keeping in touch' phone calls to help resolve any concerns or provide any support you need.

You can also contact Westborough Year Leaders via email:

- Year 7 (Mr Sidat) <u>zsidat@w-h-s.org.uk</u>
- o Year 8 (Miss Cullen) ncullen@w-h-s.org.uk
- o Year 9 (Mrs Marsden) cmarsden@w-h-s.org.uk
- o Year 10 (Mr Garside) mgarside@w-h-s.org.uk
- o Year 11 (Miss Yates) lyates@w-h-s.org.uk

For learning and progress questions/concerns please contact our Progress Leaders:

- o Years 7 & 8 (Mr Rushworth) orushworth@w-h-s.org.uk
- Years 9 & 10 (Mrs Ferguson) sferguson@w-h-s.org.uk
- o Year 11 (Mr Napper) napperj@w-h-s.org.uk

For any safeguarding concerns or advice please email:

- Deputy Headteacher in charge of safeguarding (Mrs Sweasey) gsweasev@w-h-s.org.uk
- o Family liaison officer (Miss Smith) ksmith@w-h-s.org.uk

For any other queries, including laptops and free school meal (FSM) vouchers, please telephone during the office hours or email <u>datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk</u>

Pupils can also access Microsoft Teams using an Xbox and/or Playstation using the following link: www.w-h-s.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ms-teams-xbox-playstation.pdf

Finally, whilst it is a very busy, yet difficult time there is much to be proud of; improving life chances for all our pupils is at the heart of everything we do. Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Very best wishes

Jennifer Napper

M Nappe