

5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly I'd like to apologise for yet another letter from school but I'm doing my best to keep you up-to-date with all the latest developments as they happen regarding the current Covid situation.

You will have no doubt heard the announcement by the Prime Minister yesterday evening and know that the decision has been taken to move the country into lockdown due to the current worrying situation we find ourselves in.

For all schools in England, we have now been moved to remote learning and all schools will be closed at least until February half term for the majority of school children. The exception here is that children who are classified as vulnerable or are the children of key workers e.g. NHS can be supervised at school if that is required and justified.

On Site testing.

In line with the letter I sent to you on the 2nd of January, this week was prioritised for setting the school up as a Covid testing centre and that work has continued to take place. Members of the school's Senior Team and myself have been receiving training to ensure we are able to achieve this and we've made a great deal of progress here. I will continue to update you with any further progress that we make here in the future as I'm certain that we will need to reopen in February/March with the test facility in place.

Remote Learning.

All students are beginning remote learning this week. In the last lockdown we performed well compared to other schools in terms of the quality of Google Classroom use and student engagement and in the quality of live lessons that were delivered to students. We will be ensuring that we perform at least as well again in the coming weeks but our efforts as a staff are useless unless families support us at home by ensuring that your child takes very seriously all the learning activities set for them by their teachers on a daily and weekly basis.

If you'd like to know more about how you can help your child access their digital learning platforms or live lessons or year group focused Google Classrooms, then please contact the school for assistance.

Learning Support and Coaching.

If your child has special educational needs or your circumstances qualify you for additional support then the school will be contacting you on a regular basis to ensure you have everything you and your child needs. Equally, if your child is failing to engage with their teachers or is not attending the offered Google Classroom or other platform learning opportunities, then the Pastoral Team will be

contacting you to resolve the situation quickly. Incidentally, if you have problems with electronic device availability e.g. laptops or Chromebooks at home, then look out for a text coming from the pastoral team this afternoon helping you access support there.

I am delighted to say that coaching is now a mainstay of the school experience for a growing number of students here at Wapping High now and Ms. Ingram will be contacting all students that are being coached to ensure that they engage with their staff coaches during this second lockdown. I am convinced that this will be a really useful and helpful strategy throughout this challenging time for those young people. Incidentally, if you would like your child to be staff coached and they're not already, then please do feel free to contact Miss Ingram and discuss how we might achieve that.

Examinations and Year 11.

There has been a considerable amount of discussion around whether or not we should have summer exams this year. I know at first hand how Year 11 students at Wapping High have felt anxious regarding the outcome of these discussions and the Government's decision to rethink external exams this year makes sense to me given the amount of disruption that exam year groups have had to endure.

Mr Palmer, who as you know leads on data and examinations at the school, will write a letter to you to explain the current situation in fuller detail when more is known here so if your child is in Year 11, please do look out for that letter that you'll receive soon.

Finally, I do firmly believe that face-to-face education is by far the best way to ensure that young people make progress in education and I am disappointed that we have needed to go into remote learning in schools again.

I can reassure you that the school staff will remain fully active throughout the lockdown period and ensure we do everything we can to make the remote learning experience for your child the very best it can be. I will also ensure that we continue to offer you regular updates, whether these be in the form of letters or texts, to share with you any information we feel will help you and do please feel free to contact either myself or any member of staff at the school at any time if you need our help.

Take care and stay safe.



Gary Nelson
Headteacher