

26 February 2021

Dear Parents

Year 9

As I write this, it is according to the internet, the 340th day since we locked down last March. Getting back to school in September was such a relief for everyone (yourselves included, I'm sure) and so it has been really disappointing that we have not been able to have the majority of students in school since Christmas. I am hopeful that this will be the last time that Year 9 will have to work from home but as we all know, the world changes quickly and we can 'never say never'.

The Year 9's have embraced online learning and I have been really impressed by their efforts across all of their subjects. It was a steep learning curve for us all but they have overcome challenges and I am sure the skills they have learnt, will stand them in good stead as they grow older. Speaking of growing older, please can you check that school uniforms still fit so that we can have as smooth a start as possible on 8th March. We will be getting back into face to face learning immediately and I would like as few diversions, as possible.

As a school we are very aware that the lockdown periods have been a challenge for you as parents and for your children, as their 'normal' life has been turned upside down. As we did in September, we will be looking to support all of our students when they return, in whatever ways we can and in whatever ways they need.

Usually I am speaking with parents daily and receiving emails about how home life changes and any issues that students may have. I have continued to have these conversations and emails but I am aware that things may have happened that as a school, it would be useful for us to know.

I would be really grateful if you can let me know if things have happened during this lockdown that may impact on your child and how they are likely to be when they return to school. This will be useful in planning who we need to prioritise initially. ALL of your children are equally important to me but realistically there will be those who have breezed through this whole situation and display a resilience that we didn't expect and there will be others who have struggled for a whole host of reasons.

Please be assured that any information that you share with me will be entirely confidential

Thank you, as always for your support.

With my very best wishes,

Mrs Taggart
Head of Year 9