

8th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers & Pupils

Update on Remote Learning plans

It's certainly been an eventful week, and a productive one! I hope you are all keeping well and managing to work from home. I'm here to give you another update ready for Monday. It's quite a long letter but please stick with it!

Thank you!

Firstly, thank you so much for all your support and the effort you have made to get on-line learning up and running. This morning we had well over 500 pupils in assembly which was lovely – it feels far better to start the day with everyone online! I am incredibly proud of our fantastic staff, who have gone all out to get this going as quickly as possible, and am exceptionally grateful to you for your patience and kind messages sent into school via Twitter and School Comms.

Remote Learning Timetable

We have written a new timetable for each year group, and split each year group in half. We will send the timetables home to you via School comms and also email it to pupils at their De Warenne email addresses. It is also on our website www.dewarenne.org.uk and can be accessed from the Letters section.

Every day all pupils should attend assembly with their Learning Manager at 8.25am for important messages about their learning.

Period 1 and Period 4 will be a live lesson every day for the whole academy. We will require pupils to submit a short quiz at the end of each lesson using Microsoft Forms to show they have engaged. During live lessons we may also invite pupils into breakout rooms to offer additional support.

Periods 2,3 & 5 will be a combination of live lessons and independent study, set in the Work at Home Classroom for each year group.

Pupils will know when there is a live session because their teacher will send them a meeting invitation and they will see it on their calendar when they log in to Teams.

Monitoring Progress

We will be following our planned curriculum for this half term so any child who does not engage for 5 hours every day as expected will fall behind and we don't want that!

We will take registers for the live lessons and also monitor when pupils leave the session. We will be tracking each day how many pupils attend assembly and how many submit the work

requested at the end of Periods 1 & 4. In addition to this there will be assessed pieces of work every two weeks for all core subjects (Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, French) and every three weeks for the creative subjects.

Supplementing on-line lessons

All pupils have five lessons per day as usual. However, research along with the national guidance clearly states that a blended approach is better for pupils and I am sure many of you already know how hard it is to be in constant on-line meetings when working from home. Work will be set in the "Work At Home" area for each year group, in the "Files" section. In addition, pupils are encouraged to supplement their learning by accessing Oak Academy online. They will also have Hegarty Maths, Language Nut and GCSE Pod to use as normal.

We are also preparing resource packs which will contain exercise books, work packs for individual subjects and some personal development resources to provide learning opportunities beyond the curriculum in areas such as Careers, Citizenship and looking after your mental health. We will issue the Year 10 packs on Monday after their Sports studies exam and Year 11 packs will be available to collect on Tuesday from 1.30-3.30pm. We will be in touch again when the rest are ready.

Small group tuition

We will be contacting some families in Year 10 to offer small group tuition in maths or English. This will be in addition to the normal school day and will be delivered by our 121 tutors who are all experienced teachers, Mr Lane, Mr Harrison and Mrs Nielssen. Whilst I appreciate that more time online may not be top of the Year 10 list of things to do in lockdown, it does offer the chance to benefit from some support and tuition which is highly tailored to their needs.

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns you wish to report you can do so using our Tell Us button on the website. Simply scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on Student Quick Links. Pupils can also email their Learning Manager using their De Warenne email account or send a message during assembly. Pupils who receive support with their mental health in school will continue to be called on a regular basis by Mrs Garnett our Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

Attendance

During lockdown we have a statutory duty to continue our safeguarding duties. If your child does not join assembly each morning we will send you a message. If they do not attend lessons we will call you. If we are unable to make contact and your child is not online for 48 hours we will make a police referral. Please help us keep this to a minimum.

Free School Meals

If you are entitled to a Free School Meal then you can collect a food parcel from school each week which the kitchen staff will make up. This week's has gone down well with families and can be seen on Twitter – full of goodies such as cookies, squash and even some of the DWA favourite chicken strips! If you have not ordered one you can get in touch by phone or SchoolComms. We will let families know when they are ready to collect.

Electronic devices

If your child is not online we will contact you to check whether you need to loan a device from school. Obviously, we have a limited amount which we will allocate to families most in need of this support. If you borrow a device and your child still does not engage in remote learning we will ask you to return it for redistribution. Please remember parents and carers also have a responsibility to ensure children are engaged in learning during lockdown.

Proud Thursday

Please send your beautiful work in for Proud Thursday via Twitter or direct to your subject teacher. You can follow us @DeltaDeWarenne

Well done!

You've reached the end of the first week of remote learning and the end of this letter! Thanks again for all your hard work and please get in touch if you have any concerns. Our fantastic team of admin staff are still working hard in reception and are always here to help.

Kind regards

Mrs A Rooney

Principal