



ABBEY PARK SCHOOL

22nd January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to begin by thanking you for the many positive messages of support we have received regarding the remote learning and pastoral support we are providing for your children. These are very encouraging and provide an indication that the balance of learning is right for the majority of pupils. Our pupils are showing great resilience and perseverance but if at any point they are finding things difficult please do contact the school or e-mail remotelearning@abbeyparkschool.org.uk. I would also like to thank you for the support you are providing at home – we do understand the challenges of supporting home learning.

Throughout this lockdown, we intend to keep you updated on any developments and events so please do take time to read through the following updates and refer to the accompanying documents on Mobile Data Boost and supporting mental health.

Parent subject consultation evenings

The Year 9 Subject Consultation evening will take place remotely on the evening of Tuesday 26th January. I encourage you to make your appointment as soon as possible, on School Cloud. This is a very important evening for Year 9 pupils as it will help inform them of their option choices for GCSE. There are some further resources on line prepared by our subject leaders, for pupils and parents to access, to provide further insight on the courses on offer.

Remote learning questionnaire

Finding out about pupils' remote learning experience is important. Thank you to those of you who have already responded to our remote learning questionnaire, it has provided us with insights on how we can support your child. Please follow this link to access the questionnaire <https://tinyurl.com/APS-RemoteSurvey>

GCSE/BTEC Consultation

Year 11 parents will have received a letter from Mrs Hunter regarding the consultation on GCSE/BTEC qualifications for this year. I encourage stakeholders to take time to read this and respond with their opinion.

Free School Meal provision

We will be providing food parcels up until the half term holiday, for those children entitled to Free School Meals, the contents of the parcels will change to offer variety. A two-week parcel will be delivered direct to home addresses for the two weeks commencing 1st February 2021. In line with



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Vice Principal: Mrs L Hunter

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the Government commitment for Free School Meal provision during the Christmas and February half term holidays, vouchers will be provided for the half term holiday in the same way as for the Christmas break. After half term, we will be moving to giving vouchers which will be provided for a two-week period at a time.

Lateral flow testing for C-19 in school

You will have received information regarding lateral flow testing of pupils and staff in school. We already have testing underway for those pupils currently attending school and the process is working very well. We are unsure of when schools will open wider to more pupils, but when it does we want to be able to carry out these tests to help mitigate against the transmission of the virus. Please consider the documents and access the Parent Portal on Arbor to inform us of your decision regarding permitting your child to undergo these tests. The parents of pupils currently attending school do not need to respond to this.

Finally, as I have mentioned before, we are unsure of exactly when the school will open wider to more pupils. When I am informed of this, I will ensure you are kept updated on how we will proceed. The media do tend to find out before school leaders, but any announcements of our return will come officially from myself.

Thank you again for your support as we continue to work through this as a community. We remain positive and look forward to a time when we can return to some normality with our children learning in school.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Young
Principal



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