

10th February 2021

Dear Parents and Students

As we approach February half term, I thought it timely to provide you with another update.

Miss Welch and the Year 9 Pastoral Team have been so impressed with students' enthusiasm, high engagement and adaptability throughout the remote learning period. Many staff have commented on the high-quality work that has been produced. This has been reflected in the fact we have sent home 320 positive postcards this half term. Equally impressive is the year groups' engagement in other activities set; we have over 270 entries for the quiz, as well as many students sending ideas for our Lockdown Challenges and the Year 9 Reading Challenge. Students have taken the GCSE option process very seriously with many students getting in touch to ask relevant questions and completing their personal profile with lots of detail. We look forward to beginning the guidance meetings with the year group soon.

February Half-Term:

I know students have been working very hard on their on-line learning and I wanted to thank students for all their efforts during this period of remote learning.

We value student wellbeing and understand the importance of balancing schoolwork with other activities. Throughout the remote learning period, students have received weekly emails encouraging them to look after their emotional health during this time. As half term approaches, we would like students to use this week to have a break and reduce screen time; therefore, teachers will not be setting any additional work. Miss Welch will be in touch with students before the end of the week to set a wellbeing challenge for half term offering a variety of ways students can unwind and recharge their batteries.

Returning to school:

We await to hear if students will return to school on March 8th and if so whether that will be specific year groups or all students. Until that time, next half-term, we will continue to follow the remote timetable students have been following this half term.

Year 9 GCSE Options Choices:

GCSE Option Choice Guidance meeting will take place via TEAMS. These meetings will start this week and will extend into next half term. We would hope that all these guidance meetings will be completed by the Easter Break. Information about using TEAMS for this purpose is available as a short video on our website. It is important that Year 9 students access their school email and calendar every day in order to receive their TEAMS invite. We are determined that, despite the circumstances, students will receive all the help they need to make the best GCSE choices for their future studies.

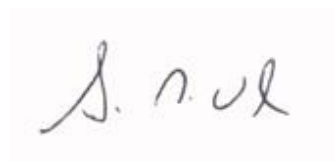
Conclusion

I hope, as we move towards the end of the Spring Term and into the Summer Term, students will return to school on a full time basis as soon as possible. We are aware that Year 9 students' education has been disrupted in both Year 8 and now again this academic year. We will ensure students have the opportunity to make up for any lost learning and, as is the case every year, students go on to achieve their personal best grades at GCSE.

We are also looking forward to the day we are able to offer the extensive extra-curricular opportunities that are such a feature of this school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



STEVE WILSON
Headteacher