

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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22nd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Remote Learning Update

Firstly, I hope that all of our families have had a well-deserved rest over the February half term, and that our pupils are returning to their remote learning feeling refreshed. Secondly, I want to thank you for all your efforts in supporting our pupils with their remote learning during the last half term. Members of SLT and Progress Leaders have been meeting regularly to review pupil engagement in remote learning and we are really impressed with the pupils' efforts. Please be assured that you will have been contacted if we have any concerns.

Thank you for your responses to the parent survey we sent out last half term about the arrangements for remote learning. This feedback is important to help us to know what is going well, and what changes need to be made to provide further support to you, and our pupils.

It was pleasing to read that:

- Pupils, and parents, liked the blended learning approach to remote learning. This is the mixture of live lessons and tasks set on Firefly.
- The introduction of live lessons was well-received by parents and pupils. Pupils found the lessons valuable and reported that they felt more connected to their teachers and peers.
- Parents and pupils liked the structure of following their 'normal' lesson timetable.

In response to the feedback from the parent survey, we have made the following changes for this half term:

- A **greater consistency in the setting of tasks on Firefly**. In particular, information about live lessons and key pieces of work will be signposted more clearly and consistently to pupils.
- **All live lessons on Microsoft Teams should now appear in pupil calendars**. There was a problem with this during the last half term – this should now be rectified. If your son/daughter continues to experience problems, please ask them to email their class teacher in the first instance.
- Parents will be able to **view all feedback given to pupils on Firefly** through the Parent Portal. Instructions guiding you through accessing the Parent Portal can be found on the school website [here](#).

Believe.....

Principal Mrs C Walmsley
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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- **Non-attendance at live lessons will now be recorded on Synergy**, in a similar way to the non-submission of key pieces of work. Please can we stress that this is **not a sanction**, but information so that you can track your child's engagement in remote learning. I know that the vast majority of parents value this information and requested it to be available.
- Whilst the majority of you told us the amount of work set was about right, there were a small number of KS3 and KS4 pupils who are completing their remote learning more quickly than their peers. With this in mind, an **enrichment booklet** has been produced for pupils. A copy of the booklet can be found [here](#) and it has been shared with pupils on Firefly. The enrichment booklet is full of optional activities designed to inspire and challenge pupils.

We hope that these will further improve the remote learning provision for all our pupils.

We hope to welcome all of our pupils back to school soon – we await Boris' announcement with anticipation! In the meantime, if your child has any questions about their work, please do encourage them to email their teachers who will respond when they are able to. Alternatively, please contact us using Parentline.

Kind regards,
Mrs H Best
Assistant Principal – Teaching and Learning