

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

At the end of a busy week, I wanted to thank you for your continued support. Earlier this week, I wrote to our students in years 11 and 13 expressing my pride in their engagement with remote learning despite the uncertainty about the exams process this summer. I would also like to thank all students and staff who have adapted so well to remote learning this week, both those accessing remote learning in school and at home. I have been delighted to hear the positive feedback from my colleagues about the conduct and attendance of students.

Y11 – 13 have been accessing live sessions this week and this will be extended to all other year groups from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Sessions this week have had some live/interactive elements with students receiving key information and feedback. Please remember that colleagues are also requested to deliver lessons to our critical worker students in school thereby, there will be times that lessons may be set out in advance and teachers will not be available in 'real time' to students. We will endeavor to keep this to a minimum.

The positive feedback from students, families and colleagues has been warmly welcomed. Many thanks to all colleagues for setting up such a professional methodology that allows all students to access high quality learning. Please be aware we have been advised about some potential internet issues in the local area if you have experienced any intermittent connection difficulties today.

We have received a large amount of IT requests for support and we will continue to support families where possible, with initial priority going to those students who qualify for free school meals. If you or your employer have any redundant laptops or tablets that you would like to donate to families who do not have technology at home, our IT department would be happy to erase any data and prepare them ready for a child to use for home learning. Please telephone 0151 336 3902 or email [admin@nestonhigh.com](mailto:admin@nestonhigh.com).

### Students whose parents are critical workers

As we have previously communicated, we have received a large number of requests to register children as critical workers. To support with Covid safety arrangements and staffing models please wait until you are contacted by school to confirm your place before sending your child to school.

Please do not request a place unless you specifically need it when you are working. Parents/carers of critical worker students will be contacted each week to confirm what days they will be attending the following week. Whilst in this pandemic we are trying to mitigate risk from covid-19 but also support the holistic needs of our young people and their families.

### 2021 Exams / BTEC Exams

We continue to await guidance about the methods and criteria for the 2021 exam series and BTEC exam process and I will communicate directly with parents and students when we receive further information. Again, can I stress the importance that our young people stay fully engaged and connected with the school community and their learning. There is plenty of time for your child to continue working with my colleagues to achieve the outcomes they deserve. I will be sending out further advice and guidance regarding attitude to learning next week.

## Free School Meals

The Government have requested that schools provide weekly food parcels to families who are entitled to receive free school meals but who are not eligible to attend school. Pre ordered weekly food parcels can be collected from school whilst school is closed. Please complete the form on this link to request a food parcel [Food parcel link](#)

Families entitled to free school meals are also entitled to apply for additional financial support to help with food and other essentials across the winter period through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#).

We are hoping that the supermarket voucher scheme is going to be restarted by the Government in the next few weeks. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals and have not registered, please do so via this [FSM application](#)

## Testing

Regular testing for staff commenced this week with the process for students attending schools commencing next week. Parents/carers of these students have been contacted directly with more information. I would personally like to thank all colleagues involved in this task who have dedicated exceptional time and thinking to provide a professional, safe and well organised system. All families have been sent a letter about mass testing with a link to a consent form for you to complete if you are happy for your child to be tested. We would ask that you please complete this form as soon as possible, especially if your child is going to be in school next week.

## Year 10 Immunisations

Year 10 immunisations have been postponed until the school reopens fully.

Please keep safe and remember that students should not be mixing apart from within the guidance laid out by the government [National lockdown guidance link](#). It is important that we all consider the future not just today! Our actions today affect all our tomorrows.

Have a lovely weekend

With kind regards

K Simpson  
Headteacher