

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you once again for your support this week as we all learn and adjust as students, teachers, support staff, parents and carers to the remote learning from home or in school for our critical worker students.

### Remote Learning

Thank you to all students and staff who have committed to online remote learning this week. We have been delighted by the attendance in all subjects. Occasionally we are aware that there have been national/regional IT connection issues. Thankfully to date these have had minimal impact on us as a school but clearly when we are able to intervene resolving these matters then we will do so. Obviously, although frustrating for all parties, when they are out of our local control we have to wait for others to solve. Teaching staff are made aware of any possible internet provider maintenance work in local areas that could impact on student attendance and will try to take this into account.

As a school that understands the implications for all learners being online each day we are monitoring the impact this has. Already subject leaders have adapted lesson content to encompass a blended approach with multifaceted methods of learning. The interaction with students has been overall positive and engaging, however we will continue to review, listen to students and staff and adapt as time progresses. Students are aware of their timetable as I have previously detailed. We have not amended the times of the school day. A reminder of lesson times is detailed below and a Parent app will be launched shortly which will give you the opportunity to view your child's subject lesson timetable (More details about this to follow).

Years 7 - 9		Years 10 – 13	
08:40	Lesson 1	08:40	Lesson 1
09:40	Break	09:40	Lesson 2
10:00	Lesson 2	10:40	Break
11:00	Lesson 3	11:00	Lesson 3
12:00	Lunch /Tutor	12:00	Lunch/Tutor
13:00	Lesson 4	13:00	Lesson 4
14:00	Lesson 5	14:00	Lesson 5

Additional time has been built into lessons to allow for a short break.

Please note that students should join their timetabled lessons on MS Teams at the allotted time, they do not need to wait for an assignment to be set to join. Some lessons will be set out in advance and teachers will not always be available in 'real time', this is due to teachers being required to support our critical worker students in school. In these circumstances and that of staff absence, student engagement will still be monitored. Thank you, on behalf of your teachers, to all students who have already undertaken tasks for their lessons in a timely manner. Can I politely remind all parents and carers that my colleagues are delivering lessons to our students and it is not appropriate for any adult to interfere or comment during a live lesson. I do not expect my colleagues to have to deal with any unconsidered or inappropriate actions and there are alternative channels for you to contact teachers

individually if your child needs further help, guidance or IT support. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Information about remote learning and our student code of conduct is available via the school website [Remote Learning page](#) [Student Code of Conduct](#)

### Using a Games Console to access online learning

If students do not have access to a laptop, they can access their learning on MS Teams through a games console using a standard usb keyboard. Instructions are available on our website [Games Console Instructions](#) and via a You Tube video. [Youtube video help](#)

Keyboards are available from Amazon for around £10 but if you would prefer to loan a keyboard from school, please email [admin@nestonhigh.com](mailto:admin@nestonhigh.com) and we will arrange for one to be made available for you to collect.

### Loan laptops

If your child does not have access to technology to access Microsoft Teams, please let us know by completing a request on the [link on our school website](#).

### Free School Meals

In my letter last week, I advised we were hoping that the supermarket voucher scheme for families entitled to free school meals would be relaunched by the Government. We are pleased to advise you that the Government have now confirmed that supermarket voucher scheme will recommence next week. If you are eligible, the vouchers will be sent directly to you by email. £30 vouchers will be sent to families on a fortnightly basis. If you are already registered for free school meals you will be sent a separate link to confirm your choice of supermarket.

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals and have not yet registered, please do so via this link [FSM application](#)

### Covid-19 Lateral Flow Tests

As you are aware from my communication last week, regular testing for school staff commenced last week and on Monday we began testing students who are currently attending school as part of the critical worker group. We would like to thank all students who took part in this for showing real maturity and understanding of the importance of the process. Even though your child may not currently be in school, please ensure you have completed the consent form that has been sent to you directly by email in order that we can undertake mass testing when your child returns to school.

### 2021 Exam Series

As many of you will be aware the consultation process on alternative arrangements for GCSE, AS, A Level and Vocational subject will shortly begin. It is still essential that students remain engaged and committed to their studies. My colleagues will provide further information to students in those year groups next week once we have digested and understood the implications of further announcements that have been circulated in the last few days from the government and DfE.

Once again, can I express my sincere thanks for the emails of support we are receiving. I regularly share these with all colleagues and they are very much appreciated. Please stay safe, follow the national lockdown guidance and have a lovely weekend.

With kind regards

K Simpson  
Headteacher

[National lockdown guidance link](#)