

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Once again, I would like to thank all parents, carers, staff and students for your positivity and support as we have all settled into our new circumstances.

### Remote Learning

We have received so much wonderful and supportive feedback from you regarding our remote provision, for which we are very grateful. It means so much to our staff to receive your emails of thanks. One of the comments we regularly hear from parents and students, however, is that it is difficult to sit at a computer for 5 hours. We know it can be an intense and tiring experience and some of you have told us you are finding it difficult to keep your child focussed or alternatively get them to take a break!

Because of this feedback, we have decided to build in two student support and well-being days. These will take place on **Thursday, 28th January** and **Thursday 4th February**. On these two days, your child will be given the opportunity to engage in with some of the following:

- The opportunity to catch up or further enhance work already started
- Reflection/Recall or Revision time - set by the teacher
- Read and review past work
- Or, if parents feel appropriate, one of the well-being activities sent to students by tutors

Further guidance will be sent to students next week and in order to support students further we will also be setting up a support email at Neston for these particular days. This is for students to email in with requests for help with technical curriculum or personal issues - [studentquestions@nestonhigh.com](mailto:studentquestions@nestonhigh.com) There will be someone available to answer any queries your son/daughter might have.

Once again, thank you for your support and feedback this term so far and we look forward to when we can welcome our young people back into the building. We are now finalising a formal feedback survey in order to help us amend and adapt our offer post the February half term as it is clear that regrettably we may have to continue this provision for some or all of our young people.

### Free School Meals

The Government have reintroduced the Supermarket voucher scheme for families entitled to Free School Meals. From Monday 18/1/2021 Families entitled to free school meals will receive an electronic supermarket voucher for £30 every fortnight for each child in the household.

We are aware that financial circumstances have changed for many families in the past 12 months and more families have become eligible during the pandemic. Full details of eligibility criteria along with a simple application form is available on the Cheshire West and Chester website, if you think you may be entitled to free school meals and have not yet registered, please do so via this link [FSM application](#).

If your application is successful, the school will receive a notification the same day and we will add your email address to the supermarket distribution list immediately.

If you are already registered for free school meals, you will be sent a separate link to confirm your choice of supermarket.

### Loan laptops

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

### Microsoft Office Licence for use at home

Information about how students can access Microsoft Office licences for use at home on their own devices (laptop, tablet, smart phone) can be found on our school website by following this [link](#).

### Attendance

In line with government guidance to monitor engagement with remote learning and due to the evolving nature of the way that we are working, it has become necessary to update the way that we register students during Lessons 1-5.

If the student is present in a lesson with live elements on MS TEAMS	/
If the student does not attend the lesson with live elements on MS TEAMS	N
If there is no live element to the lesson (in line with national guidance that all students working at home are coded X)	X

Staff will contact students who are not engaging with live lessons or completing learning to offer support and guidance and follow up with parents where necessary.

In line with national guidance for students working from home, registration will continue to be marked with an X (which means 'working from home due to public health restrictions'). Students attending the Emergency Provision (Critical Key Workers/ Vulnerable students) are coded present. Students who are expected to attend Emergency Provision under government guidance and do not attend, will be coded C (authorised absence).

Absence codes will be used for all students, (Emergency Provision and remote learning), who cannot attend, for example due to illness.

**Please continue to let us know if your child cannot attend the Emergency Provision or lessons due to illness or for another reason, e.g. a medical appointment. This information must not be communicated by your child to their teacher but should come through normal school attendance procedures.**

### 2021 Exam Series

Ofqual proposals have now been published for consultation. I have written to parents and carers in years 11 – 13 separately with further information, however I would reiterate my delight with how the students in these year groups have continued to conduct themselves and commit to their studies despite the uncertainty they may be feeling. My colleagues will continue to support them, and they must stay focused and connected with their learning.

### Thank you to our generous community

Finally, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to everyone who has donated redundant laptops and tablets to support our students to work from home. Following a request on social media we have been

heartened to receive donations of laptops and tablets from ex teachers, current and past families and our local community, as well as some generous donations of money to buy additional technology to support children to learn from home. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend.

With kind regards

K Simpson  
Headteacher