

11 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year. 2021 has certainly started in unusual circumstances for everyone and we have all had to adapt to very quickly to the changes.

Remote Learning

I am pleased to say that our remote learning platform, Satchel One:Show My Homework, is up and running and many students have been engaging with their learning on a daily basis. Staff are working hard to adapt and develop the lessons now that the vast majority of the school is working from home. There were some technical issues across the country as a whole earlier in the week as 1000s of students tried to access the platform, but these issues have now been ironed out and it should be working normally now. The remote learning page on the school website will give you information about a range of things including which timetabled lessons your child should be following at home, copies of knowledge organisers, links to The Oak Academy lessons and much more. There is also an email address that students can use to access specialist teacher support with each subject.

mathsstudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

sciencestudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

geographystudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

restudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

businessstudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

musicstudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

artstudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

englishstudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

mflstudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

historystudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

socialsciencestudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

technologystudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

pestudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

dramastudents@jws.bham.sch.uk

Student wellbeing calls

Student wellbeing is very important at this challenging time. There is information on the school website to direct you to a range of agencies and services that you may find useful in helping you to support your child. From next week staff will be making weekly contact with students. The purpose of these calls is to ensure that students are able to access the remote learning and give advice and guidance if needed. It is also important that we maintain contact with you during this time to ensure that when students do return this is as smooth and successful as possible. The member of staff who contacts you will be the main contact for you in school. If you miss their call, they will leave their name so that you are able to ring back and speak with them at another time. If this member of staff is unable to help you then please direct your queries to your child's Head of Year.

Heads of Year 7

Head of Year 8

Head of Year 9

Head of Year 10

Head of Year 11

Heads of Year 12/13

Mr R Daley and Ms R McDermott

Miss K Holland

Ms S Wootton

Mr H Young

Mrs N Noreen

Miss A Sharp and Ms N Mughal

Free School Meals (FSM)

Our catering partner Chartwells have created food hampers for those students entitled to free school meals. These parcels were available all this week in school and will be made available again on 18 January and 1 February. We are unable to deliver 300 food parcels to student homes so we would encourage you to come and collect your parcel during the week that they are issued. If you have particular circumstances that make this impossible such as self-isolation or shielding please get in touch with your Head of Year so we can support you with this.

If your circumstances have changed and you feel you may be eligible to claim free school meals please click on the link below and follow the very quick and simple process to apply. The school receives additional funding for FSM students to support their education which can include the use of a laptop, subsidised music lessons, as well as the free school meals in school and food parcels when working from home.

Apply online at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/> You will need your national insurance number or national asylum support service reference number, your date of birth and your child's date of birth.

Laptops

We are in the process of distributing the latest allocation of government laptops to those FSM students who need them. Any parent who has not yet replied to the survey that has been circulated several times, must contact their Head of Year as soon as possible as any that have been unclaimed will be reallocated to other eligible students. The vast majority of these laptops will have been collected by Tuesday evening ensuring that most students can access their remote learning on a suitable device.

In School Provision

There is provision in school for the children of key workers and other students that have been identified, using government guidance, as benefitting from being in school. These students will be accessing a broad and balanced curriculum with specialist teachers and pastoral staff. There is a limited lunch time provision including the availability of hot food. If you think your child would qualify for this provision please get in touch with Mr Averis, Deputy Head via the main phone line or the enquiry email address enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk. Someone will then be in touch to discuss this with you. Please do not send your child before you have had a conversation as the staffing is carefully planned to meet the needs of the numbers of students that we are expecting.

School Buses

There is currently a very limited number of school buses. The bus company may well change this at short notice. It is important that you ensure that if your child is attending school they know how to get to school and home using public buses in case the school service does not run.

Finally, if you have changed any of your personal details, phone numbers, address or email please notify the school via the enquiry email or reception. We will be sending out lots of information in the next few weeks and it is important that we are able to be in touch with you.

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Peters
Headteacher