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5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know the Prime Minister announced last night that all schools are to close and most pupils to remain at home and learn remotely. It is important to update you on our strategy for the first half of this term (at least). Once again, sincere apologies for sending more information but it has been a turbulent few days. The most important theme that feeds through the following information is that I want the typical school day to mirror, wherever possible, a normal school day. My reasons for this are the mental health and well-being of children (routine and a quality education are paramount so as to improve life chances).

As I said at the weekend, it has been unhelpful that the Government has frequently changed their minds regarding the role of school leaders in the testing process; not to mention the change of dates to the staggered return of schools and, ultimately, to close schools to children. However, COVID Testing will continue when schools re-open so please complete the consent form, if not already done so, when convenient.

Year 11

Wednesday 6th January to Friday 12th February– pupils will be taught online, following their normal timetable.

Although the mock exams are postponed, please rest assured that we will do everything in our power to ensure our fantastic Year 11 pupils are not disadvantaged or disillusioned with the summer assessments/exams. At this point we do not know what form they will take but there may need to be a series of assessments over the next few weeks. I will speak to them via video at 2pm on Thursday 7th January (during form time).

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10

Wednesday 6th January to Friday 8th January– pupils will be set learning via **Show My Homework**, following their timetable. Please be aware that pupils' timetables in years 7, 8 and 9 have changed due to changes in staffing. (This can be viewed on School Gateway. Pupils' calendars in MS Teams are also in the process of being updated.)

Please be aware that some work may be delayed due to staff illness and there are a small number of new staff who need to training in the use of Show My Homework.

Monday 11th January to Friday 12th February– pupils will be taught online, following their **new** timetable.

We will endeavor to make as many of the remote lessons and form time via **MS Teams** where possible (Year 11 from Wednesday 6th January and Years 7-10 from Monday 11th January). Pupils should log on using their school email address and go to the calendar to join lessons. Pupils should also check Show My Homework.

In essence, pupils should follow the normal school day with appropriate breaks in the morning and lunch as per the school timetable. Interaction with teachers and pupils, even if online, will support the wellbeing of all pupils and there will be a further opportunity to keep in touch via form time. Attendance to online learning and form time is compulsory and registers will be taken. If your child is not well enough to attend, please inform the school office in the normal way.

From the 6th January, we will offer a food parcel for children entitled to free school meals. In order to reduce waste, we will prepare, therefore, these for parents/carers who make a request via FSM@parrenthorn.co.uk. Please note that they will need to be collected from school. I will continue to communicate with you all, particularly when further guidance is announced.

Please take care and stay safe

Yours sincerely

Chris Bell
Headteacher, Parrenthorn High School