



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

Official Sensitive

5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

January 2021 Lockdown

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, albeit in light of the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday evening which, I know, presents further challenges for many families. I wanted to write today to try and reassure you and to clarify any immediate questions you may have.

How long are School closures due to continue?

The information received states that schools will be closed until at least February half term (12 February). This will be reviewed at this date and an assessment will be made in relation to the control of the virus.

Vocational Examinations in January

We have received confirmation that these will go ahead as planned. Students will be provided with relevant preparation work, including support days in school, alongside exam timings and expectations. Students should follow normal Covid measures, including social distancing and wearing face coverings.

Remote Learning

The timetable and information that Mr Finch and Mrs Cook distributed last week will continue to operate. We will continue to provide a variety of provision to support your child. Within their programme, we will offer opportunities for 'live' and 'interactive' lessons.

Please note, however, that some teachers will encounter challenges with their own childcare needs that cannot be met by key worker provision or other arrangements. In these cases, we will have to be flexible ie students invited to join another 'parallel' class or arrange 'live' provision in another slot. As always, we understand the pressures of Home Learning and will provide as much guidance as possible. We will, however, monitor engagement levels and inform you if there are any patterns developing in relation to non-completion of work. The expectation, once again, is to do the very best that they can. Please inform us if you have any concerns about workload or access to the work.

Key Worker/Additional Support Provision

On site provision for these students will continue to operate. Information about the structure and organisation of this programme will be issued to parents separately.

Year 11 and Year 13 Exams

The Prime Minister's announcement about the summer exams is a very significant one, and, no doubt, caused further anxiety amongst the Year 11 and Year 13 students and their families regarding the impact of this. The statement made by the Prime Minister states that 'Summer exams will not go ahead as planned'. Currently, there are discussions taking place at Government level and there is still a view that the awarding of final grades will include some form of external assessment. At the moment, the advice to Year 11 and Year 13 students is to continue with their studies as normal and follow the remote learning provision with the assumption that they will be sitting an exam-like assessment during the summer term. Obviously, when we receive clarity on this we will inform you immediately. We will organise a 'webinar' with both Year 11 and Year 13 students and provide a live Q & A session. We hope to do this next week but this will depend on information received from the DfE.

Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Examinations

Year 13 Mock Examinations will take place on week beginning 22 February 2021. This has already been declared on the student calendar. We will review this depending on the circumstances at the time.

We intend to run the Year 11 Mock Examinations at a later date. They have been moved to week beginning 8 March 2021. We are hoping that this allows us with some face-to-face preparation time with our students, providing them with clarity on exam technique and requirements. This will obviously depend on the decision made related to school re-opening. Alongside this, there will be remote revision programmes driven through subject areas. Mr Finch and Mr Hyde will also organise a session on revision and study skills which can be applied to all subjects.

Covid Testing

The assumption is that we will continue to plan for testing within the school setting. This will initially take place with any staff or students attending school. For the majority, this will be postponed until the students return to school.

As indicated earlier, I wanted to write quickly and provide you with the information we have received since yesterday. I will endeavour to keep you updated with any developments as we receive further clarity.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any assistance or support with your child's welfare or progress.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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