

To All Parents and Carers

5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Update following National Lockdown Announcement

Further to my letter dated 31st December 2020, I would like to update you regarding our activities following the recent government announcement regarding the national lockdown commencing officially on 6th January 2021.

As you are probably aware, all secondary schools are now closed except for identified vulnerable students and the children of key workers. Here at St Anne's, this means that most of our students in all year groups must now access learning online during the national lockdown period, which is expected to remain in place until February half term.

All students must now follow their existing timetable to access live lessons and resources online during the school day. If your child does not have access to a laptop and the internet to complete their work at home, please contact us if you have not already done so as we may be able to help, however please bear in mind that our resources in this respect are limited and we have allocated most of the laptops which were provided to the school by the government during the summer lockdown.

Since Monday 4th January we, like many other schools, have been delivering remote education to all our students across all year groups. The academy has invested heavily in improving our IT infrastructure to ensure that all students are able to access high quality live lessons with their teachers every day. The feedback we have received from both students and parents so far, has been overwhelmingly positive and I am proud of how well we, as a school community, have adapted to remote education.

I understand that over the coming weeks we may face minor teething issues. Staff at St Anne's are working hard each day to ensure these are quickly resolved. As ever, if your child does experience any technical issues in relation to remote learning then please, in the first instance, head to our school website where help and support is available. It is important to note that for students to be recorded as present in their online learning they must be present in all their 'live' lessons with their teachers who, as normal, will be taking registers.

Please support your child by encouraging them to attend school online and creating an environment at home which is conducive to their learning, e.g. a quiet space for your child to work during the school day, if possible.

Year 11 Parents' Evening appointments will take place by phone as arranged on Thursday 7th January 2021. We will provide you with as much information as we can but do not yet have the full picture in relation to how student outcomes will be determined for Year 11 students later this year. As soon as we receive the relevant information, we will share this with you. If you have not yet made an appointment with your child's Form Tutor, please do so by visiting the Academy website on www.stannesacademy.org.uk.

We can provide support to the families of children eligible for free school meals whilst they are not in school and have offered packed lunches as an initial measure of support this week. From next week, we will provide a weekly food parcel to support families with the provision of school lunches for eligible students. If you would like to receive a weekly food parcel for your child, please email us on freeschoolmeals@stannesacademy.org.uk.

As you will be aware, schools were about to embark on a mass Covid testing programme just prior to the lockdown announcement. We will write to you separately about this as we will need to obtain your written consent in advance for your child to be tested for Covid at school.

I will be in touch as soon as we have further information to share with you as the situation evolves. In the meantime, we are here to support and help you so please do contact us on 0161 643 2643 if you have any queries or concerns. You may also visit our website which we will keep updated throughout.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Heyes', written in a cursive style.

Mr C Heyes
Headteacher