

7 January 2021

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all but not the start to the year we were hoping for. I've no doubt the last couple of days have been a challenge for us all. I wish you and your families all the very best during what will be a tough 6 weeks or so. Today it was back to the 'bring your child to work' day; my office once again varied between a cinema, creche, art and craft centre and hide and seek venue! At times I wished they would never find me!

A colleague of ours conducted a live lesson yesterday. She was ready and excited to deliver to her expectant audience. The camera came on and one lad intoned, "Oh my god, what is she wearing!" Please remind your sons of the mute function! Fortunately, the teacher has a great sense of humour and was shivering in a shawl.

Plenty of news to share...

### Internal Exams

We are still in the process of finalising our next steps with regards to Y11, Y12 and Y13 internal exams. A further update will be provided very shortly. We do not want to rush these decisions, but we also appreciate how worrying it is for students and parents to be in limbo. To this end, I can confirm that there will be no internal exams this side of half term.

### Lateral Flow Covid Testing

The programme is now up and running. We have tested all our staff and pupils who are currently on site. We are confident and well prepared to roll out the scheme on a much larger scale when we have a full return to school. We are lucky and grateful to have staff prepared to be involved in this process.

### Positive test result during this period

Please could you let us know if your son has a positive test result at [attendance@rgshw.com](mailto:attendance@rgshw.com) – we still need to let County and the DfE know. We would appreciate the following information:

- Detail of symptoms (if any)
- Date of onset of symptoms
- Date of test
- Date of result
- Any other family affected

### Critical worker list

We are pleased to have a small number of pupils studying in school at present. [Attached](#) is a reminder of the critical worker list and vulnerable student criteria. Please contact [arw@rgshw.com](mailto:arw@rgshw.com) if you are eligible and would like your son to attend school during this period.

### Achievement Points

We feel it is incredibly important that we continue to praise and motivate our students during this period and will therefore continue to give Achievement Points. As per the previous lockdown we will not be issuing Behaviour Points. If your son is not engaging with his lessons or the work set, the staff will be in touch with you.

## **Homework Year 7-9**

Based on feedback from the previous lockdown, we have decided not to set homework for students in Years 7-9. Students may be required to finish off pieces of work from the lesson, but additional homework will not be set. We want your sons to focus on their classwork and do not want them glued to a screen for the vast majority of the day.

## **Remote Learning**

As mentioned in the Headmaster's letter earlier this week, we are in a much better position to provide remote learning. It is a challenge for both staff and pupils but I have no doubt they will rise to the occasion once again. Please do support us in encouraging your son to attend all his lessons. All pupils need to really take responsibility for their learning during this period. It has been a pleasing start to this week.

## **Digital Access**

The ability of our boys to access remote education is dependent upon their access to hardware and the internet. We would be grateful for the help of parents to enable us to develop a comprehensive and complete picture of this individual provision, such that we can support our boys in a tailored way. To this end, please could we ask you to complete the attached Form, developed by Mrs Javaid to support our Digital Strategy, as soon as you are able; it should only take approximately 3 minutes.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Pu6mcJUbIEifB1\\_MiPbJhvwA8X\\_vlM1NoubHd4AWeYpUNTZIUzYxMFpGOFRUUURUMIRRUFBTUIFLNS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Pu6mcJUbIEifB1_MiPbJhvwA8X_vlM1NoubHd4AWeYpUNTZIUzYxMFpGOFRUUURUMIRRUFBTUIFLNS4u)

Whilst we are delighted that the Year 7 iPads will be delivered to parents next week, we acknowledge how difficult access might have been for our Year 7 boys this week. Please could Year 7 parents complete this Form on the assumption that their sons, if ordered, will have their iPads from next week.

## **Online Remote Learning - Responsible User Agreement**

As was the case back in March, we would be grateful if you could please read the guidance on the next page with your son. We will take his participation in any #LiveTeach lessons from 11 January as his agreement to these expectations. It is imperative we maintain the highest standards of behaviour during this period and are aware of our digital footprint.

## **Thank you for all your continued support**

With kind regards

**Alex Wallace**  
**Deputy Headmaster**

### **Responsible User Agreement:**

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE GUIDANCE AND RULES CONTAINED WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT.

Your parents have been made aware of this guidance, and your participation in any use of the RGSHW Office365 platform from Monday 11 January onwards will indicate your agreement with these rules. It is to be used in conjunction with other RGS policies for example the School Rules and the RGS Behaviour Policy Rules.

- I will be responsible for my behaviour and actions when using technology (Teams and other interactive applications), this includes the resources I access and the language I use.
- I will only use technology for school purposes as directed by my teacher.
- I will only use Office365Teams #LiveTeaching when directed by the teacher. I will not record or take photos of my classmates or teachers during a #LiveTeaching session.
- I will make sure that all my communication with students, teachers or others using technology is responsible and sensible. If sending an email, I will only use my school email account.
- When contacting your teachers this should be done mainly through submitting your work through Teams/VLE.
- I will not reveal my passwords to anyone.
- I will not deliberately browse, download, upload or forward material that could be considered as potentially upsetting to someone, offensive or illegal. If I accidentally come across any such material I will report it immediately to my teacher and/or my parent.
- I understand that when using Teams and other applications provided by the school that my use can be monitored and logged and can be made available to my teachers.
- I understand that these rules are designed to help keep me safe and that if they are not followed, school sanctions will be applied and my parents may be contacted.

### **Guidelines:**

When using #LiveTeaching, remember that this is an extension of the classroom and you should conduct yourself as you would in a classroom. This includes:

- When you are on #LiveTeams you need to be in your living room, dining room or kitchen. Never join #LiveTeams from your bedroom.
- Please be on time for your interactive session
- Be dressed appropriately for learning (i.e. no pyjamas)
- Remain attentive during sessions
- Interact patiently and respectfully with your teachers and peers. Use polite language and correct formalities (you are not talking to a friend).
- Do NOT record other student's online interactions.
- Please ensure you end the session as soon as the teacher indicates to do so.