

15 October 2020

Dear Parents,

Schools, nationwide, are facing challenging times, and it is during these that we see our communities pull together. As shared, a number of RGS staff have been self-isolating during this recent period. Whilst this is hard, it does demonstrate the dedication of the other members of the school community to support in their absence. Those staff at home are frustrated, but they too have been working hard to provide remote learning to their pupils in school. Indeed, we continue to take best practice from the lockdown period and combine it with more traditional methods of teaching to offer the best experience for our pupils. You may well see this referred to as Blended Learning; a continuing focus for our School.

Sometimes, during a period such as this, it is easy to become a little negative; many people face difficult futures. We are fortunate to have a great tonic in our student body. On Friday I walked out early to do my Friday after-school bus duty. Sometimes considered the graveyard shift, it is the complete opposite. I watched the end of the Year 7 Games session as I walked past. Despite the heavy rain on Friday, the boys were working hard and enjoying each other's company with smiles on their faces. On bus duty - nearly all pupils leaving the site thanked me and wished me a good weekend. It is these little things which make a big difference and remind us, that despite the challenges, our culture is still very much intact.

Getting back to you

- If your son is away from school, staff will endeavour to post work on Teams or the VLE within 24 hours of the lesson (as previously shared, we are addressing some IT difficulties which may delay this in the short term, we are making significant progress in this area).
- If you need to contact a member of staff, we will be delighted to hear from you. Please understand that staff have a full teaching timetable between 0845 and 1540 but they will do their best to reply as soon as is reasonably practicable with the aim of this being within 48 hours (not including weekends). Please keep in mind some staff are part time.

Gentle reminders

- Please remind your son to bring headphones to school each day so he is able to access work from Teams/VLE should his teacher be absent. Many tasks require this resource.
- Please ensure your son is wearing school branded kit for Games lessons. If he does not have a school tracksuit he should wear blue/black tracksuit bottoms and his school blazer and a coat. He should not wear a hoodie.
- Finally, please do not send your son into school if he has any of the Covid symptoms, we appreciate your essential support in this matter. For more details [please click here](#).

Half term

- As announced by the Headmaster this week, **students will be expected to work from home on Thursday 22 October**. Students are expected to login for their registration period at 8.45am via Teams. They will be set work by their teachers for the day. This will not be live teaching as staff are undertaking training during the day.
- Half-term will officially begin at 15.00 on Thursday 22 October.

iPad Portal

A gentle reminder to all Year 7 parents that [The Learning Foundation Portal](#) closes on Monday 19 October at midnight. We are sadly unable to extend this deadline because of the lead time that is currently needed to secure iPads, which we are keen to deliver to the boys.

Thank you again for your continued support,

Kind regards

Alex Wallace
Deputy Headmaster