



HOLDERS ROAD
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Maths &
Computing

THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL

CAD/dah

8th January 2021

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Headteacher

Mr. N. D. Roper B.Sc., NPQH

School Business Manager

Mrs. J. Wakeham

Dear Parents

We are writing to update you on changes that we are making to remote education provision, in particular for Years 7, 8 and 9 following the National Lockdown announcement on Monday. Our previous plans that were communicated related to the two week staggered start and is no longer relevant.

Plans that were being put in place for the mass testing of the whole school have been put on hold in light of the National Lockdown, but we would still appreciate the consent form to be completed (see letter sent on Monday) as this will ease pressure on us when schools are to be reopened.

The provision for each year group has been updated below.

As stated before it is important to note that the phrase 'remote' learning does not exclusively relate to the delivery of 'live' lessons, and more guides will be sent to all parents soon in terms of what effective remote education looks like based on the research from the DfE, and also our previous experiences. There will also be a set of protocols for 'live' lessons issued that we would ask all students to adhere to.

Year 11 and Year 10

This week has been an excellent start to remote learning and we are incredibly impressed with your attendance levels and engagement. Year 11 have also received at least two letters regarding changes to exams, and we will send more when we have more information to give. In the meantime, students need to keep engaging and completing work as they have so far.

Year 9

Due to the new situation we have changed the decision to 'postpone' the start of GCSE courses and we will be starting the delivery of GCSE courses from Monday 11th January. This means that a good level of engagement is vital for 'live' lessons and all tasks set to support understanding. This will obviously mean a lot of new content is being delivered, so it will also be important for students to have time to reflect on new knowledge and consolidate understanding. Work will be set on SMHW following their new timetable, and 'live' lessons will appear on Teams.



Year 7 and 8

We are also changing our plans in regards to Years 7 and 8 due to the lengthened absence from school, so they will be receiving the same provision as the rest of the school. We have set some 'getting ready' tasks on Show My Homework this week, including setting up and using Tassomai which supports English, Maths and Science, and getting ready to use Microsoft Teams. Students will be following their normal (new) timetable and lessons will be added to SHMW each day in this way and 'live' lessons will appear in their Teams calendar.

Access to technology and technical issues

We have been able to issue many laptops following Government provision for some students, but there may still be some students who are impacted by a lack of access to technology or suitable internet connection. If this is the case, please email admin@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk and we will try to support you through the issuing of paper copies of work where possible.

Additional guides have been issued this week to parents and pupils, including information on how Xbox and Playstation consoles can be used to access Microsoft 365 packages. If you encounter difficulty logging in to any of our platforms/websites, please email admin@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk and we will try to support you.

A range of guides and advice to support you in this time can be found on the coronavirus section of our website here: <https://www.stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk/news/coronavirus-updates/>

Remote Education Provision

Lessons will be a mixture of 'live' elements allowing for teachers to explain content, including the use of the chat function on Teams to support students with questions and misconceptions. We are learning how to prerecord content and upload it which may mean that students are able to watch lesson content at a time that suits them (and potentially supports families where multiple meetings are in place at the same time), and also replay explanations to ensure full understanding. It is also important for students to give tasks a try, and spend time practising independently, or reviewing their knowledge. Therefore there will be tasks set that allow for the information they have gained from teacher input to be put to use, much as they would experience in a normal classroom.

As mentioned above we will be issuing a guide to effective remote education shortly to support your full understanding of the range of methods that will be used by our teachers during this period. This will meet all of the standards within the DfE expectations, and will also be based on research.

How to support us in this time

As we are sure you can appreciate, the changes that we have been faced with this week have presented a range of challenges. We have already needed new servers in order to deal with the demand of placing some learning online, and staff are learning new ways to teach. We therefore ask for some patience at this time. We will strive to do everything that we can to support you, particularly with technical problems, but it will take a while for everything to settle.

We have also redeployed our support staff to different roles, from learning how to deliver COVID tests to supporting the critical worker provision, meaning that we have fewer



people available to answer calls or respond to emails. We will get back to you as soon as we can, or will take all correspondence on board in our next set of plans and actions even if we are to able to reply to each individual call or email.

We do ask that your calls and emails take into account the pressure that has been placed upon staff, and that you communicate within our parents code of conduct and in a way that is understanding of staff feelings. Rude or passive aggressive emails/calls will not receive replies.

Contact from school

Many of you will have had phonecalls from staff members already this week. We are aiming to phone every household each month. In the first instance to check that you have everything you need to get started with remote learning. Next month will be a check up to see how things are going. In addition to 'live' lessons with teaching staff, students will also be expected to attend one tutor session on Teams each week with their tutor. Attendance to 'live' lessons is being monitored, alongside engagement and completion of work. If students periodically miss their learning we will be in contact to explore reasons and offer any support possible. Parents can monitor engagement themselves through Insight and SMHW. Since we are in National Lockdown, students should be at home, and we have been asked by the council to stress the importance of following the restrictions.

Thank you so much for your support so far. We have received lots of lovely messages from you, and it is great to have students working with us, sending their creations and even talking to us in lessons.

We wish you all well. Stay safe.

Best regards

C A Dean
Deputy Headteacher

