



Parent / Student update 8/1/20

Dear all,

It has been a tough week for the students but they have made a fantastic start to their online learning. Teachers have given very positive feedback on students' participation in their lessons. I know it has been a tough week for the students with all the different announcements about exams and the uncertainty they bring with them. I hope that there will be more information in the coming weeks.

I know that some students have had some struggles with the technology needed for online learning and please do let us know if you need some support in this area.

Year 12 mock exams

A reminder that these exams have been postponed for the foreseeable future and we will rearrange these once we know when students are likely to return to school.

Update on Year 13 on exams and teacher assessed grades

Currently the government has been clear that there will be Teacher Assessed Grades for students as the A Level exams have been cancelled. However, at the moment this is not the case for both the Cambridge Pre-U and the BTEC qualifications. Students therefore do need to continue to apply themselves to their studies in the same way as there is a possibility, for some subjects that exams may go ahead. In addition to this the current head of the exams regulator has stated that "please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education. This will put you in the best position, whatever arrangements are made for your qualifications." <https://tinyurl.com/y6tn9uhz>

Mental Health in Lockdown

It's important that students look after their mental health during lockdown. The routine of lessons should help with this as having a consistent routine helps us to keep a bit of normality and also making sure we get some exercise - whether it's a stroll in the park or the Joe Wicks workouts, which start again on Monday. The Student Room website has some good hints to help - <https://tinyurl.com/yxjnclyo>. If you are struggling then do get in touch with us. The Sixth Form counsellor is running remote appointments as are Off the Record. There are also lots of links for other organisations on the wellbeing link on the Sixth Form website - <https://www.msnsixth.com/copy-of-students-and-parents-1>

Attendance

In the same way as when we are in school, if a student is unwell, please contact Ms Grainger on 01761 402280 or sixthformadmin@msnsixth.com by 8:30am as usual so we are aware not to expect them in remote lessons.

If students have any issues with IT provision please get in touch; as usual on the above details.

Year 13 Student Finance

The students' finance applications have not yet opened but we will be releasing our video guide for parents next week together with some other handy guidance on this.



Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership

Tutor support during lockdown

Tutors are running 1:1 mentoring support for students, they will be in touch with their tutees to arrange this. Tutor times and activities will be communicated by tutors via tutor google classrooms so students need to check on this.

Reminder - students must check emails / year group classroom regularly throughout the week for notices and information

MSN Site - timings of the day

During lockdown, some lesson timings have changed so all year groups have the same lesson times. This means lessons all start in the morning at 9am, the school day finishes at 3.25 and that tutor time for sixth form students is now 12.40-1pm.

UCAS deadline extended

In recognition of the difficulties caused by the lockdown for students UCAS have extended their deadline for applications. Students now have until 29th Jan to make an application and universities guarantee they will consider them. To meet this deadline, applications would need to be submitted to the Sixth Form by 22nd Jan. Students should get in touch if they need any support with this.

University Application support

Mock interviews are available; students should get in touch if they would like one. Please ensure students speak to their tutor before accepting firm and insurance offers.

I hope that this information is useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with either myself or Ms Oxley-Hughes (MSN Sixth) or Ms Taggart (Writhlington).

Best wishes,

K Ward
Director of Sixth Form