

## Parent/ Student Update W/C 15.3.21

It has been fantastic to have students back in school on all sites and they have been brilliant in adhering to the new Covid related expectations and getting back into their studies. Students who requested support have been offered sessions with either a counsellor or additional sessions with their tutor. We don't underestimate how difficult it is for students to return and if a student is struggling please contact Ms Oxley-Hughes or Ms Taggart.

### Testing

The government has suggested that testing should continue at home, twice weekly (we have suggested Sunday and Wednesday evenings) over the Easter break and hence your children will receive more testing kits before the end of term to allow for this. Mass testing for other members of the household are available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

It is so important that we don't become relaxed about Covid, despite the welcome reduction in numbers of people infected, hospitalisations and deaths. The decision to close whole bubble/s or not is so difficult and will always be met with mixed views, regardless of the decision made. With this in mind, can I please urge you, **not to send students** in if they are displaying any of the classic Covid symptoms e.g. high temperature, new and persistent cough or a change/loss of sense of taste/smell. Can I also ask that you do not send students in if anyone else in the household has symptoms or has tested positive on any test (whether it be PCR or LFT).

### Teacher Assessed Grades - Year 13 students

Details of how these will be calculated and a letter with more details has been sent home. Further details on the assessments and how the grades will be calculated will be available on our website during the last week of term. Teachers will already have been detailing the assessments to students in their lessons.

### Year 12 Assessments - Writhlington and MSN Sixth

There will be in class assessments for students after Easter to assess where students are after the lockdown. This will allow us to plan where additional support may be needed to support students to catch up. Year 12 will also have more formal end of year exams towards the end of June. The dates for these will be finalised after Easter. Tutors will have a specific focus on revision after Easter for their sessions.

### Supporting students at home with revision

A helpful guide from [www.theparentsguideto.com](http://www.theparentsguideto.com) has been added to the Students & Parents section of our website; please click [here](#) for more information.

### Subject support sessions

Subjects across all sites now have their subject support sessions running each week. Details of these sessions are below. Students may be invited to attend them, but students are equally welcome to drop in to get support with any aspect of their studies for that subject. Due to the bubbles on the sites, it's not as easy for students to be able to talk to subject teachers outside lessons, but I would encourage them to email teachers if they have any worries or if they need any additional support in a subject.



make them realise their hard work now will be worth it once they find a career or course they want to pursue!

The website allows the students to search for specific careers or use their subjects to search for possible courses/jobs that are relevant to their studies. It allows them to input their target grades and see what they would be able to apply to and what would be appropriate for them giving them a range of aspiration, solid and safe choices which gives students a wide spectrum of options to look through.

The platform allows students to record any work experience, skills, attributes and competencies they may wish to talk about in interviews and personal statements and gives them the capacity to save all this information in one place so when it comes to writing these and applying for their courses they have all the information they need at their fingertips.

In addition to this students can complete Online Courses (MOOCs) and also watch the support videos in the 'Know How' section which helps students with revision, mental health and stress, how to write personal statements and CVS and what the difference is in different options of courses and apprenticeships available.

We have been encouraging students to use this in tutor time but they need to also be exploring this at home with your help so they can start to rule out what they do not want to do and perhaps start to think about what they do want to do next.....exciting!

### **Work Experience**

All Sixth Form students should have the opportunity to complete some work experience in some form, whether that be in a business environment or on a university taster day, however due to Covid we are unable to offer in person opportunities this year. Students will, however, have the opportunity to complete virtual work experience. Many students have already taken part in events which have been promoted in the Careers classroom. We are going to be encouraging more students to plan something for next term to ensure they are able to supplement their applications for next steps in Year 13. More details about opportunities and how students can find out more will be released in an information video after Easter.

Thank you for all your support at this time and please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any further queries or concerns.



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